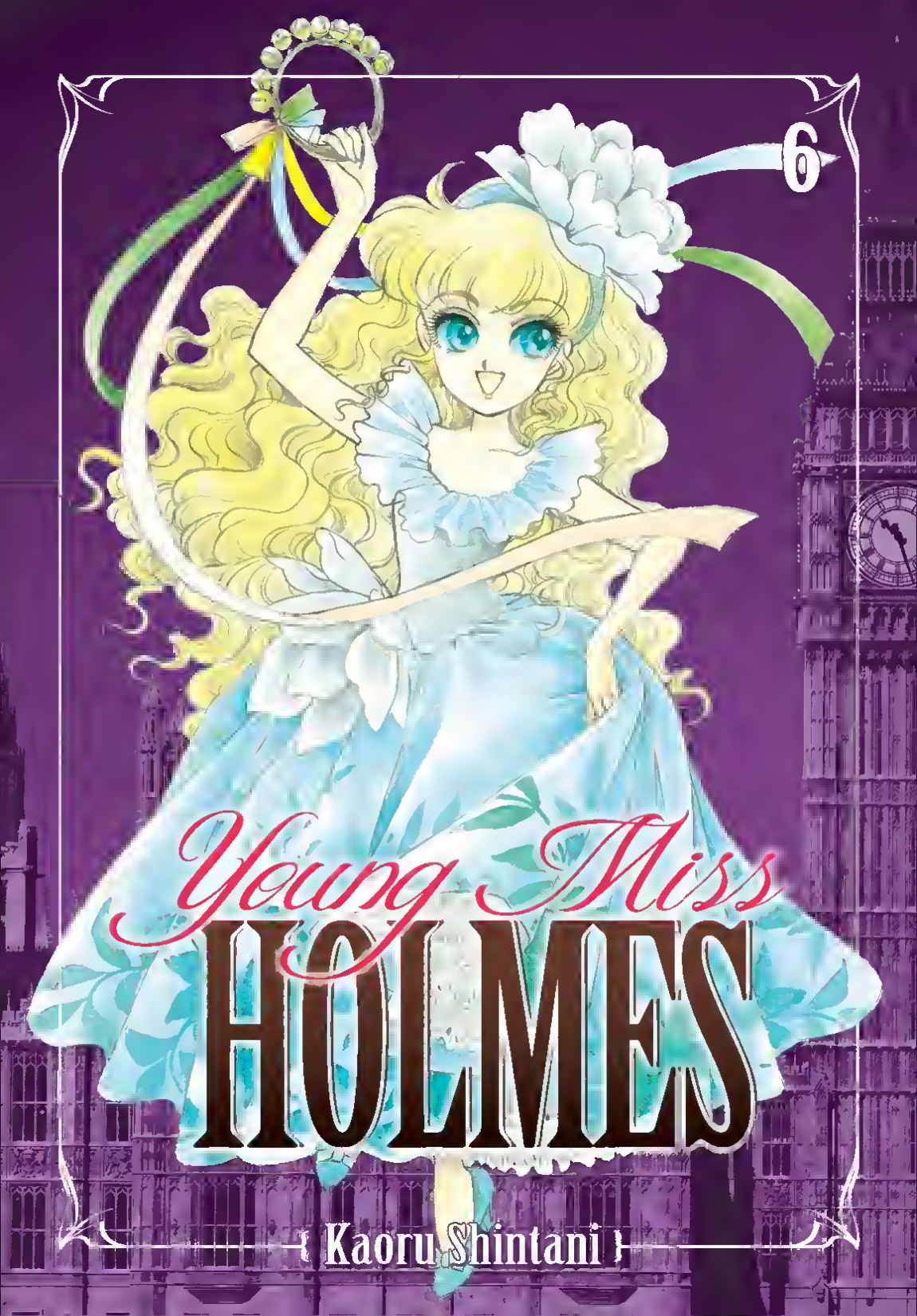
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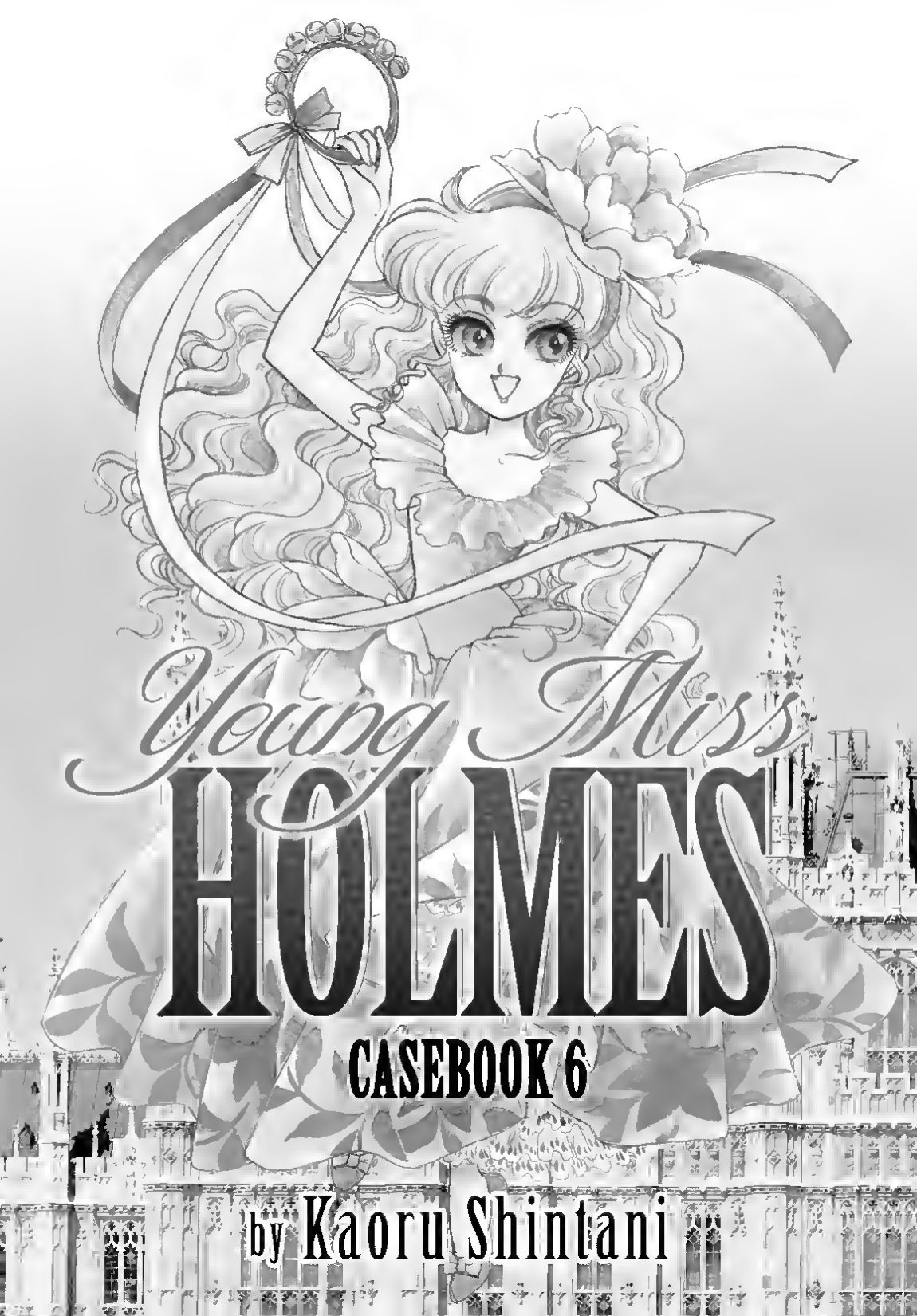
Young Miss
HOLMES
Kaoru Shintani


Young Miss
HOLMES
CASEBOOK 6
by Kaoru Shintani

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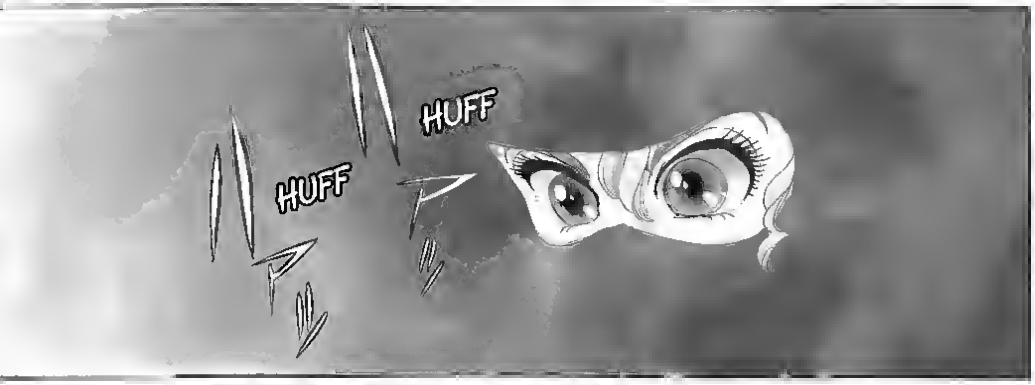
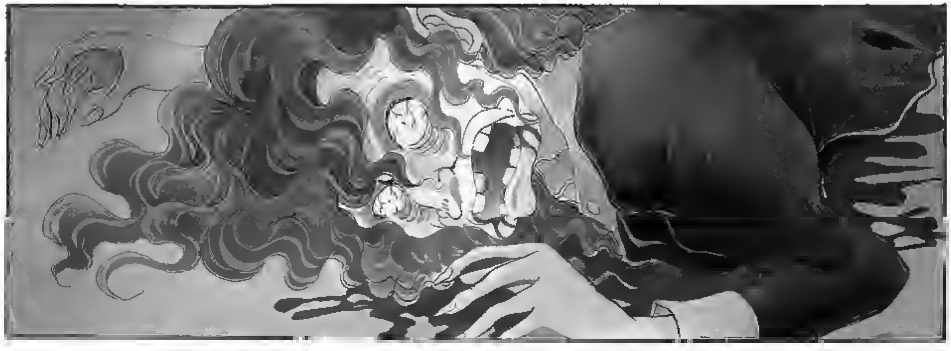
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!

The Adventure of the Flying Dancer (1)





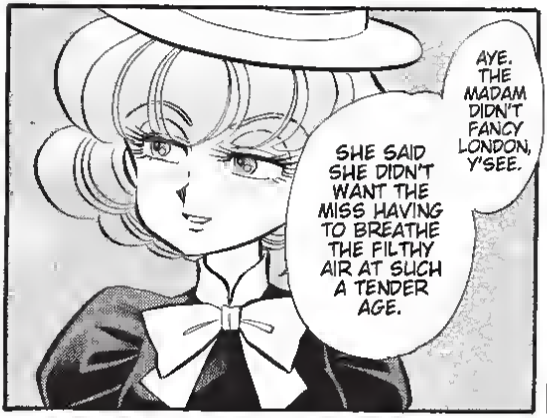
Young Miss
HOLMES

I HAVE NEVER BEEN SO *UTTERLY BORED* IN MY LIFE--!
THIS IS *HORRIBLE!*
THEY WILL BE GONE FOR AN ENTIRE *MONTH*, WITH THE OFFICE SHUTTERED UP BEHIND THEM. THAT CAN'T BE GOOD FOR BUSINESS.
WHAT ON EARTH POSSESSED UNCLE TO LEAVE FOR PARIS AND TAKE DR.WATSON WITH HIM?
WELL IT WAS BUSINESS-- OR A CASE LEASTWAYS-- WHICH BROUGHT THEM TO PARIS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
THERE'S A CIRCUS *COME* TO ROTTEN ROW'S EAST FIELD!!
'OY, MISS! JUST YOU WAIT TIL YOU HEAR!

NORA! DO NOT SHOUT WITHIN DOORS.
A CIR-CUS?
OH MY... IT STARTS TODAY.
AYE! AND IF WE LEAVE STRAIGHT AWAY, WE'LL BE JUST IN TIME FOR THE AFTERNOON SHOW.
BEGGIN' YER PARDON! I JUST COULDN'T RESTRAIN MESELF.
I MEAN, THERE'S A CIRCUS COMIN'! A CIRCUS! LOOK!
THEY'RE PASSIN' THESE OUT AT THE PUB DOWN THE ROAD A WAYS.
BEELEY BIG CIRCUS

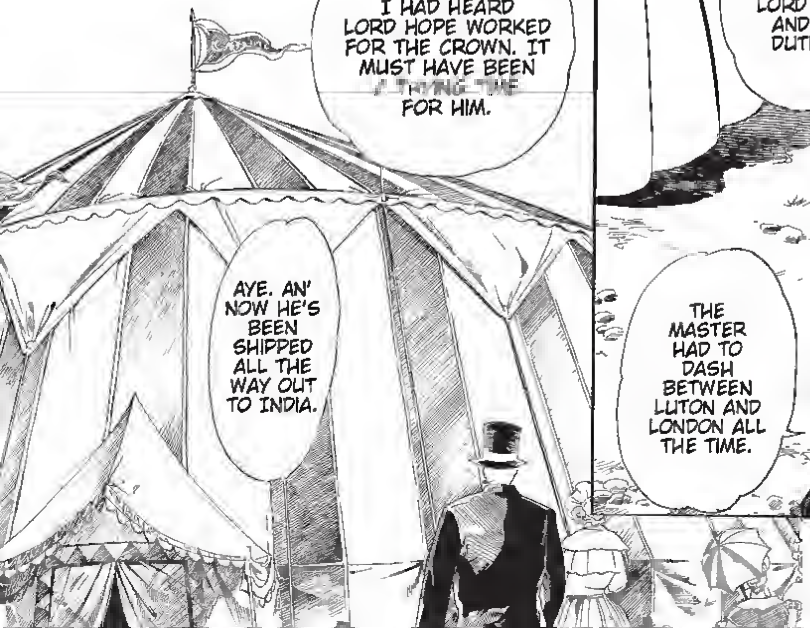
PWAH-
TA-
TA-
TAAAH
BOOM
BOOM
JANGLE
AYE. THIS'LL BE A FIRST FOR THE MISS, TOO.
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE CIRCUS MYSELF, SO I HAVE NO BASIS FOR COMPARISON.
IS THAT SO?
IF I'M SIZIN' THE PLACE RIGHTLY ...
THIS LOOKS TO BE A MIDDLING-BIG CIRCUS.
OH MY...
THIS IS AMAZING!
SPARKLE
SPARKLE

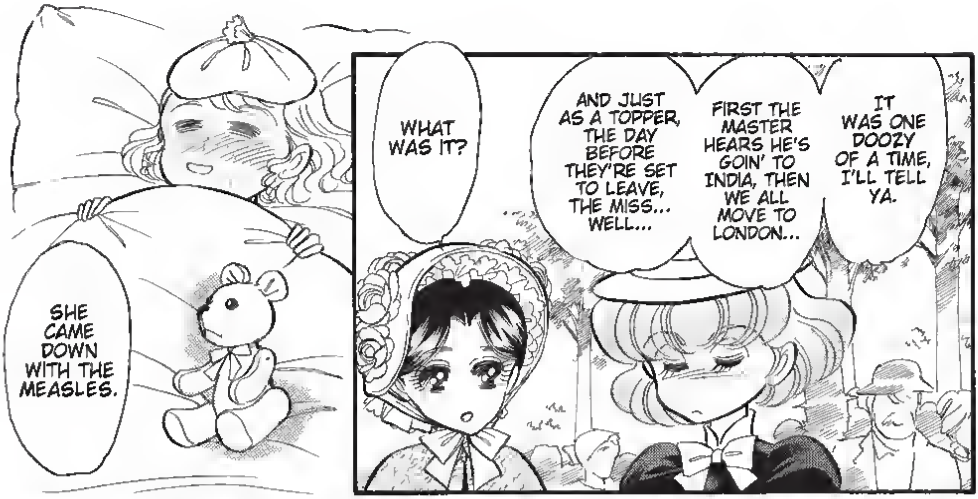
SEE, WHEN THE HOPES FIRST TOOK ME ON...
THE MISS WAS A WEE LITTLE LASS OF ONLY THREE YEARS.
AN' WHEN WE UP AND MOVED TO LONDON, SHE WAS STILL ONLY FIVE.

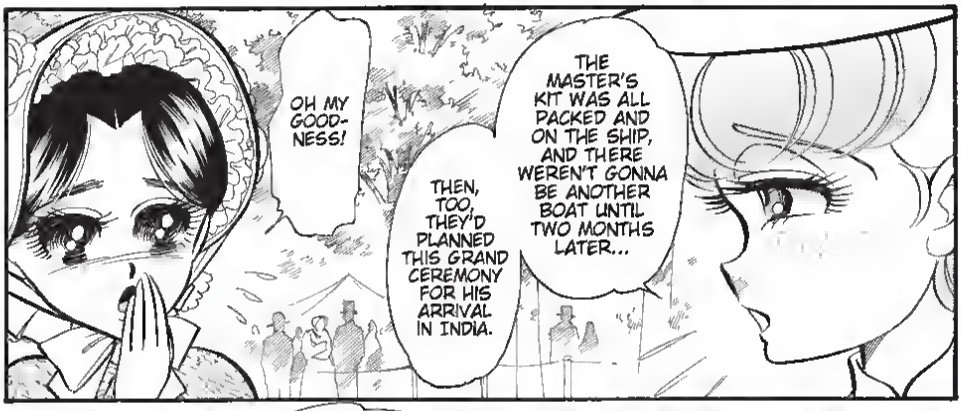

AYE. THE MADAM DIDN'T FANCY LONDON, Y'SEE.
SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT THE MISS HAVING TO BREATHE THE FILTHY AIR AT SUCH A TENDER AGE.

THEN LADY CHRISTIE SPENT ALL OF HER YOUNGEST YEARS IN LUTON?

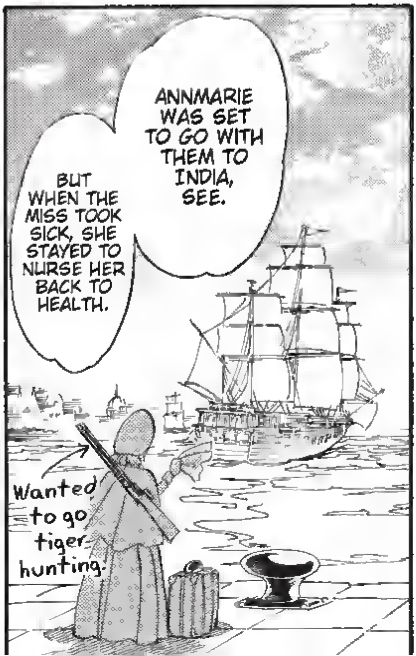
OH? BUT WHAT OF LORD HOPE AND HIS DUTIES?
THE MASTER HAD TO DASH BETWEEN LUTON AND LONDON ALL THE TIME.


GOODNESS! I HAD HEARD LORD HOPE WORKED FOR THE CROWN. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TIRING TIME FOR HIM.
AYE. AN' NOW HE'S BEEN SHIPPED ALL THE WAY OUT TO INDIA.


SHE CAME DOWN WITH THE MEASLES.
WHAT WAS IT?
AND JUST AS A TOPPER, THE DAY BEFORE THEY'RE SET TO LEAVE, THE MISS... WELL...
FIRST THE MASTER HEARS HE'S GOIN' TO INDIA, THEN WE ALL MOVE TO LONDON...
IT WAS ONE DOOZY OF A TIME, I'LL TELL YA.


OH MY GOOD-NESS!
THEN, TOO, THEY'D PLANNED THIS GRAND CEREMONY FOR HIS ARRIVAL IN INDIA.
THE MASTER'S KIT WAS ALL PACKED AND ON THE SHIP, AND THERE WEREN'T GONNA BE ANOTHER BOAT UNTIL TWO MONTHS LATER...

I CAN CER-TAINLY SEE WHY.
SO THE MASTER WAS LEAVIN', THE MISS WAS CRYIN', AND ANNMARIE WAS IN A MOOD FIT TO CHEW NAILS! IT WAS A RIGHT MESS, I TELL YA.

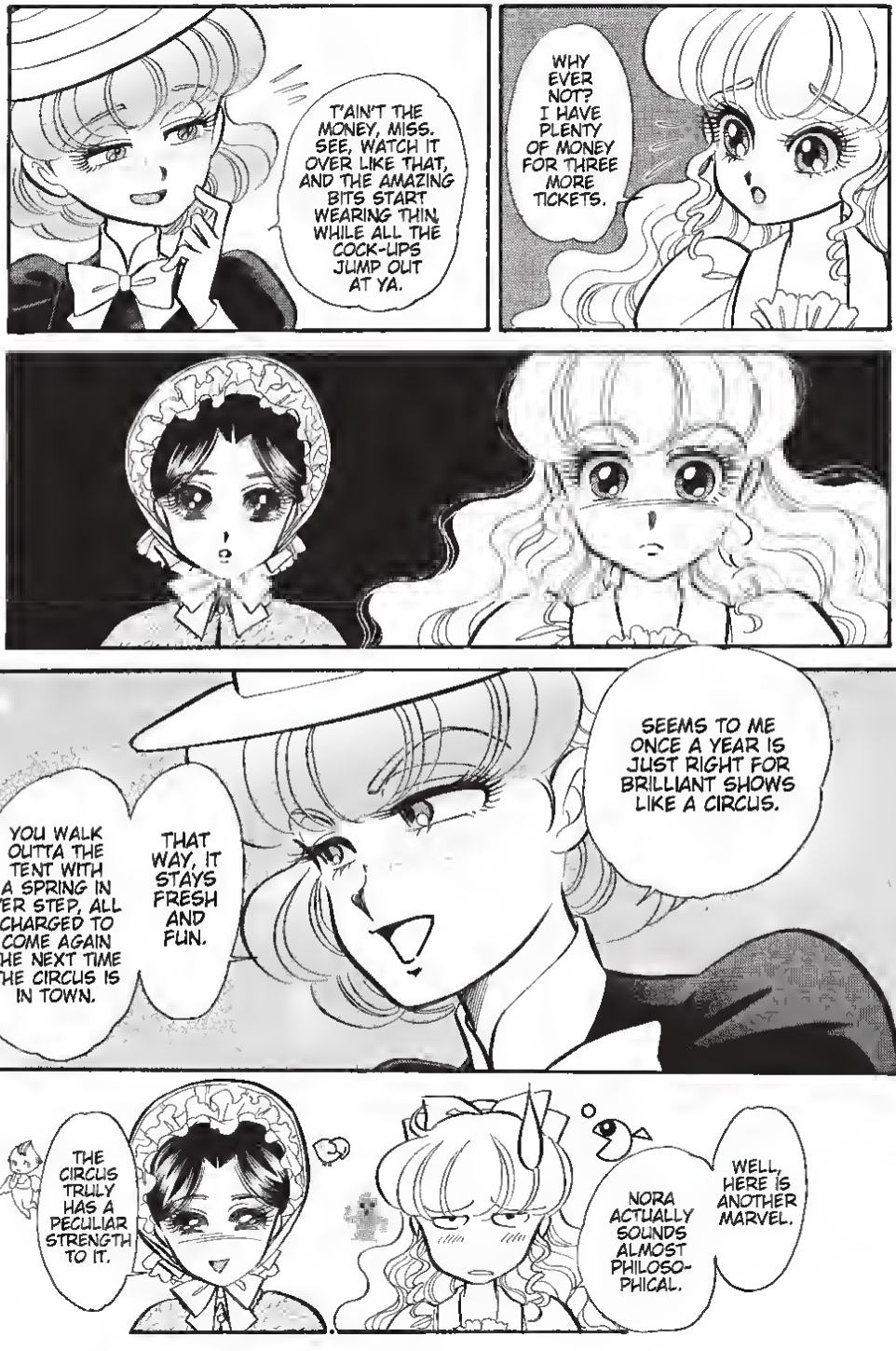

BUT WHEN THE MISS TOOK SICK, SHE STAYED TO NURSE HER BACK TO HEALTH.
ANNMARIE WAS SET TO GO WITH THEM TO INDIA, SEE.
Wanted to go tiger hunting.

NORA! MISS GRACE! COME ON~!
HURRY, OR ALL THE BEST SEATS WILL BE TAKEN!
TICKETS, M'LADIES?
AHA HA HA!
BUT NOW THE MISS IS ALL GROWN UP INTO A REGULAR YOUNG LADY.
COR! A WHOLE SHILLING?
YER PICKIN' MY POCKET!
HURRY! OVER HERE!!
I EXPECT RENT FOR THE GROUNDS IS HIGHER IN LONDON.
THESE THINGS ARE USUALLY ONLY SIX PENCE OR SO.

BOOM
SHAKA
PA-PA-PA-PAAAH
TMP
2
10

THERE'S SOME THINGS EVEN I CAN'T DO MISS.
NAY!
NORA, COULD YOU DO THAT?
ﾜｲﾜｲ
LOOK! ISN'T THAT INCREDIBLE?!

I... I THINK IT STILL HASN'T QUITE SUNK IN JUST YET.
AND HOW ABOUT IT, MISS GRACE? YOU LIKED IT?
THAT WAS WONDERFUL!
INCREDIBLE! AMAZING!!
I HAVE NEVER BEEN TO SUCH A SPLENDID EVENT BEFORE.
FOLKS CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING, IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A LIVIN'.
I NEVER IMAGINED THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO COULD DO SUCH FANTASTIC THINGS.
IT IS ALMOST TOO MUCH TO BELIEVE.
NAH.
YOU AREN'T WANTIN' TO DO THAT, MISS. TRUST ME.
OOH, NORA!
LET'S GO BACK AND WATCH THE EVENING SHOW, RIGHT NOW!!
WELL, I'M PLEASED AS PUNCH FOR YA, MISS.


T'AIN'T THE MONEY, MISS. SEE, WATCH IT OVER LIKE THAT, AND THE AMAZING BITS START WEARING THIN, WHILE ALL THE COCK-UPS JUMP OUT AT YA.
WHY EVER NOT? I HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY FOR THREE MORE TICKETS.
?
SEEMS TO ME ONCE A YEAR IS JUST RIGHT FOR BRILLIANT SHOWS LIKE A CIRCUS.
THAT WAY, IT STAYS FRESH AND FUN.
YOU WALK OUTTA THE TENT WITH A SPRING IN YER STEP, ALL CHARGED TO COME AGAIN THE NEXT TIME THE CIRCUS IS IN TOWN.
THE CIRCUS TRULY HAS A PECULIAR STRENGTH TO IT.
NORA ACTUALLY SOUNDS ALMOST PHILOSO-PHICAL.
WELL, HERE IS ANOTHER MARVEL.

!
OH! I SEE THE INSPECTOR BY UNCLE'S OFFICE!
DRIVER, STOP HERE!

ER... YOU COULD SAY THAT, I SUPPOSE. WE CAME SEEKING ADVICE FROM MR. HOLMES.
INSPECTOR GREGSON! DETECTIVE DEXTER!
HAS SOMETHING INTERESTING HAPPENED?
WELL, THEN ...
SO WE JUST HEARD FROM MRS. HUDSON.
UNCLE AND DR. WATSON HAVE LEFT FOR PARIS. THEY WON'T RETURN FOR SOME TIME.
URK ...!
WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME ABOUT THE CASE, INSPECTOR?

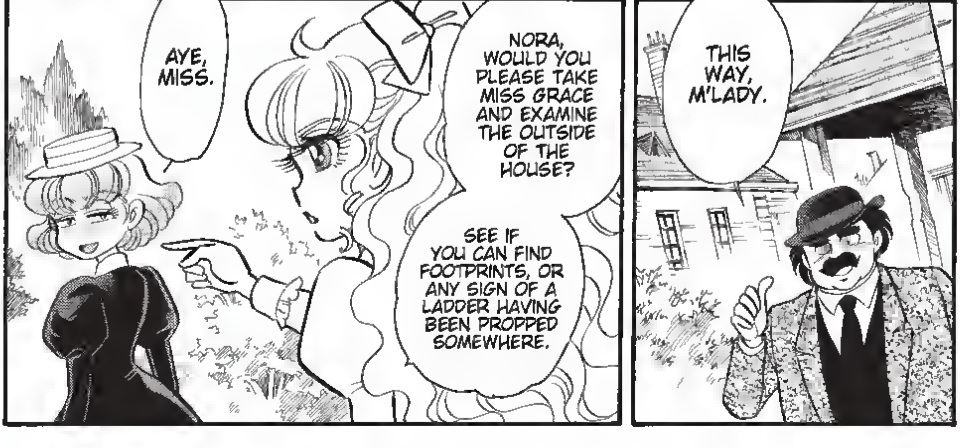
OH MY! A MURDER IN PIEDMONT?
MY LADY, ARE YOU SURE WE MAY USE THE OFFICE WHILE MR. HOLMES IS OUT?
AW, WHERE'S THE HARM? THE MISS PRACTICALLY LIVES HERE, ANYWAY.
YES.
THE VICTIM WAS BERTHA NOWAK, A WIDOW, AGED 62.
SHE WAS A MONEY-LENDER.
NO, LET ME BE PLAIN... SHE WAS A LOAN SHARK. HER REPUTATION WAS POOR, AND SHE HAD NO OFFICIAL FINANCIAL BACKING AT ALL.
SHE WAS FOUND ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF HER HOME, IN A SMALL ROOM NEXT TO HER BED-CHAMBER.
SHE HAD BEEN PIERCED THROUGH THE CHEST WITH A SABER.

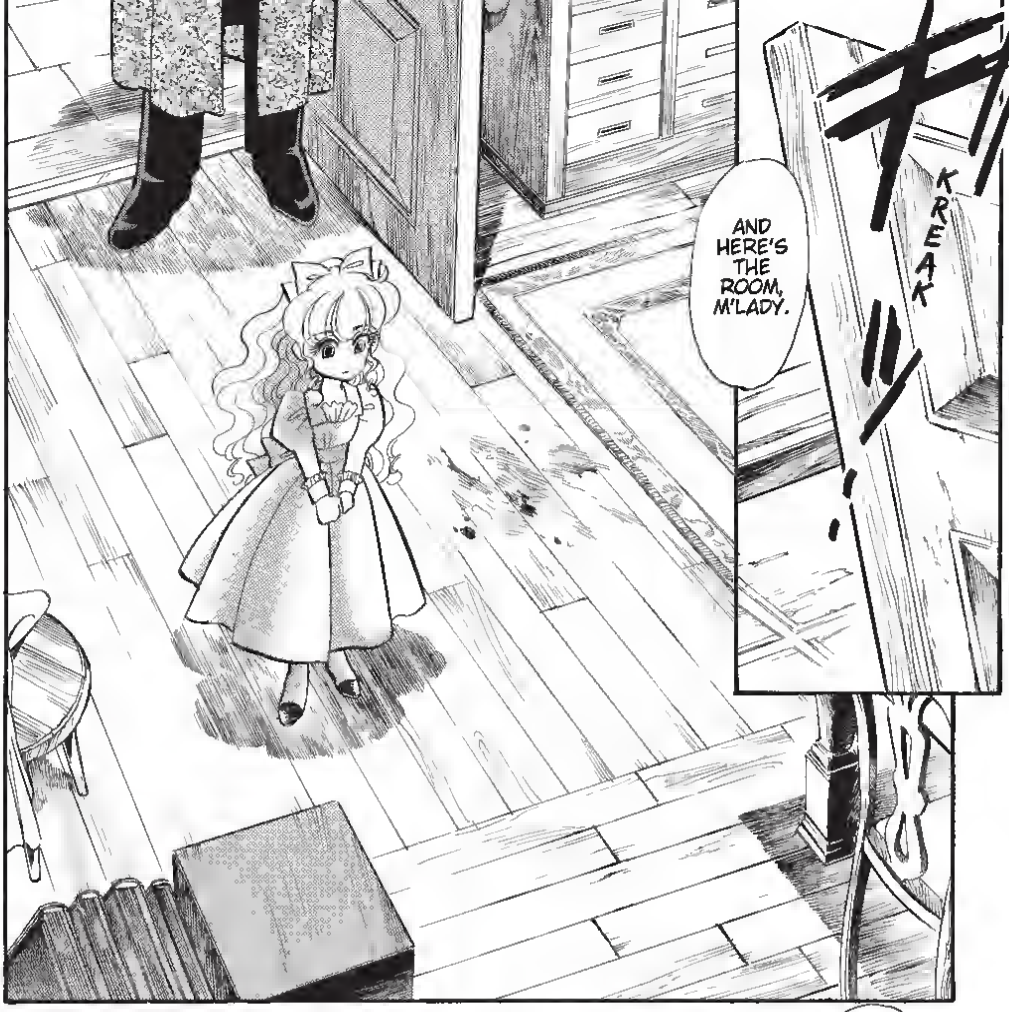
THE CORONER HAS SET THE TIME OF DEATH IN THE MIDDLE OF LAST NIGHT.
SOMETIME BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 4 AM.
THIS SEEMS LIKE A FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD HOMICIDE TO ME.
WHY WOULD YOU NEED UNCLE'S ADVICE?
THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANYONE ELSE ENTERING THE ROOM, KILLER OR OTHERWISE.
MOREOVER, THE CASH IN THE SAFE IS UNTOUCHED, AND NO VALUABLES WERE MISSING.
THE DOOR AND THE ROOM'S ONLY WINDOW WERE BOTH LOCKED. FROM THE *INSIDE*.
IN OTHER WORDS, THIS IS A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY.

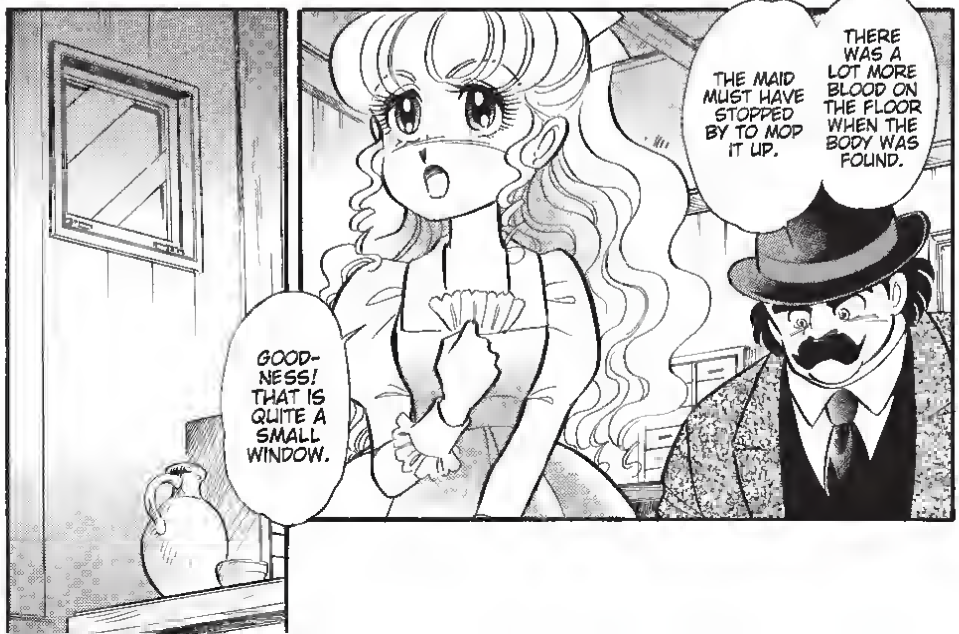
I... SEE.
INSPECTOR, WOULD IT BE PERMISSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT THE SCENE?
MY LADY!
UNCLE IS, AS I MENTIONED, CURRENTLY IN PARIS.
WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHEN HE WILL RETURN.
THE CRIME SCENE WILL NOT WAIT UPON HIM.
ACCORDINGLY, I PROPOSE TO GO AND EXAMINE IT WHILE IT IS STILL AS PRISTINE AS POSSIBLE.
I WILL DISCOVER WHAT FEATURES OF INTEREST I CAN AND WRITE THEM DOWN FOR UNCLE WHEN HE RETURNS.
M'LADY, THAT ISN'T NECESSARY.
WE HAVE ALREADY STUDIED THE SCENE. WE CAN EXPLAIN IT TO MR. HOLMES OURSELVES.
UNCLE'S METHODS OF INVESTIGATION ARE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE EMPLOYED BY SCOTLAND YARD, AND I AM FAMILIAR WITH THEM.
MY LADY...
THAT, I BELIEVE, IS HOW WE ARE ABLE TO SOLVE MYSTERIES THAT CONFOUND THE POLICE.

SPLOOOOOSH

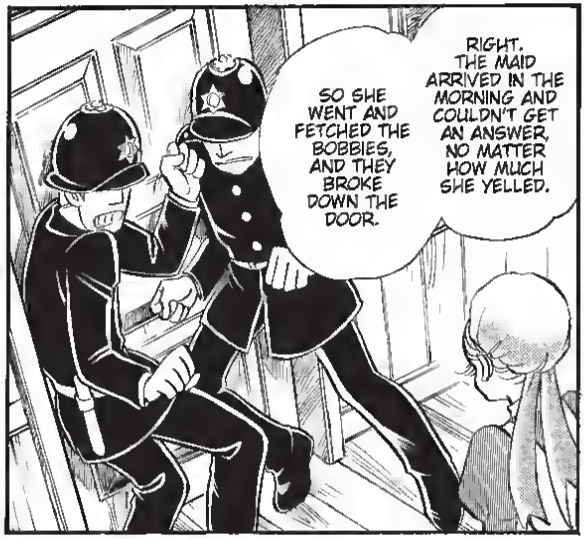
MY! THE HOUSE WAS BUILT RIGHT ON THE RIVERBANK.
BLIMEY, THAT WATER'S FLOWIN' QUICK! I RECKON IT'S AN IRRIGATION CHANNEL OF SOME SORT.

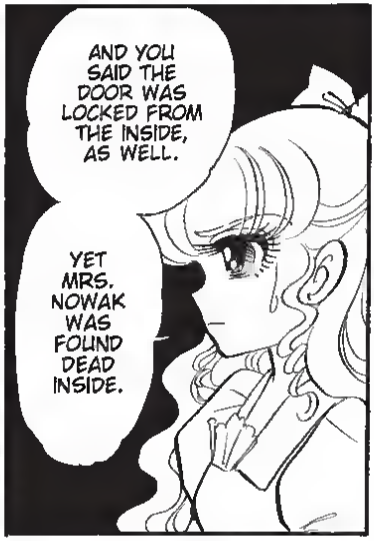

NORA, WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE MISS GRACE AND EXAMINE THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE?
AYE, MISS.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND FOOTPRINTS, OR ANY SIGN OF A LADDER HAVING BEEN PROPPED SOMEWHERE.
THIS WAY, M'LADY.

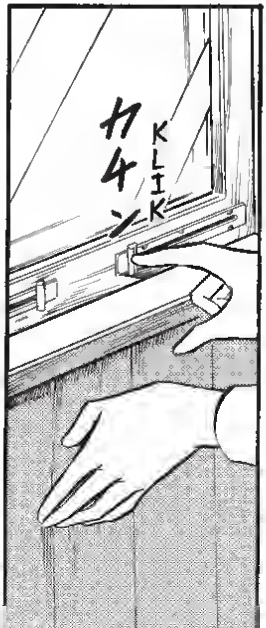

AND HERE'S THE ROOM, M'LADY.
KREAK

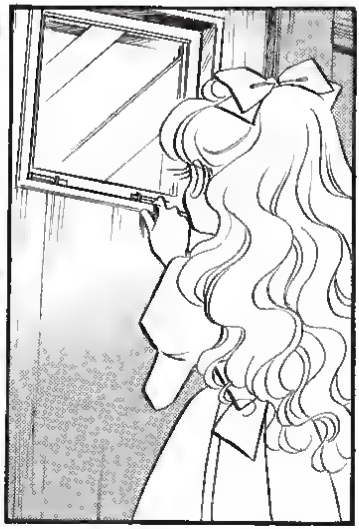

THERE WAS A LOT MORE BLOOD ON THE FLOOR WHEN THE BODY WAS FOUND.
THE MAID MUST HAVE STOPPED BY TO MOP IT UP.
GOOD-NESS! THAT IS QUITE A SMALL WINDOW.

YOU CAN ONLY GET AT IT FROM HERE.
IT HAS A SLIDING-BOLT LOCK ON THE BOTTOM.
JUST ENOUGH TO LET IN A BIT OF AIR AND LIGHT, I'D ASSUME.


SO SHE WENT AND FETCHED THE BOBBIES, AND THEY BROKE DOWN THE DOOR.
RIGHT. THE MAID ARRIVED IN THE MORNING AND COULDN'T GET AN ANSWER, NO MATTER HOW MUCH SHE YELLED.


AND YOU SAID THE DOOR WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, AS WELL.
YET MRS. NOWAK WAS FOUND DEAD INSIDE.

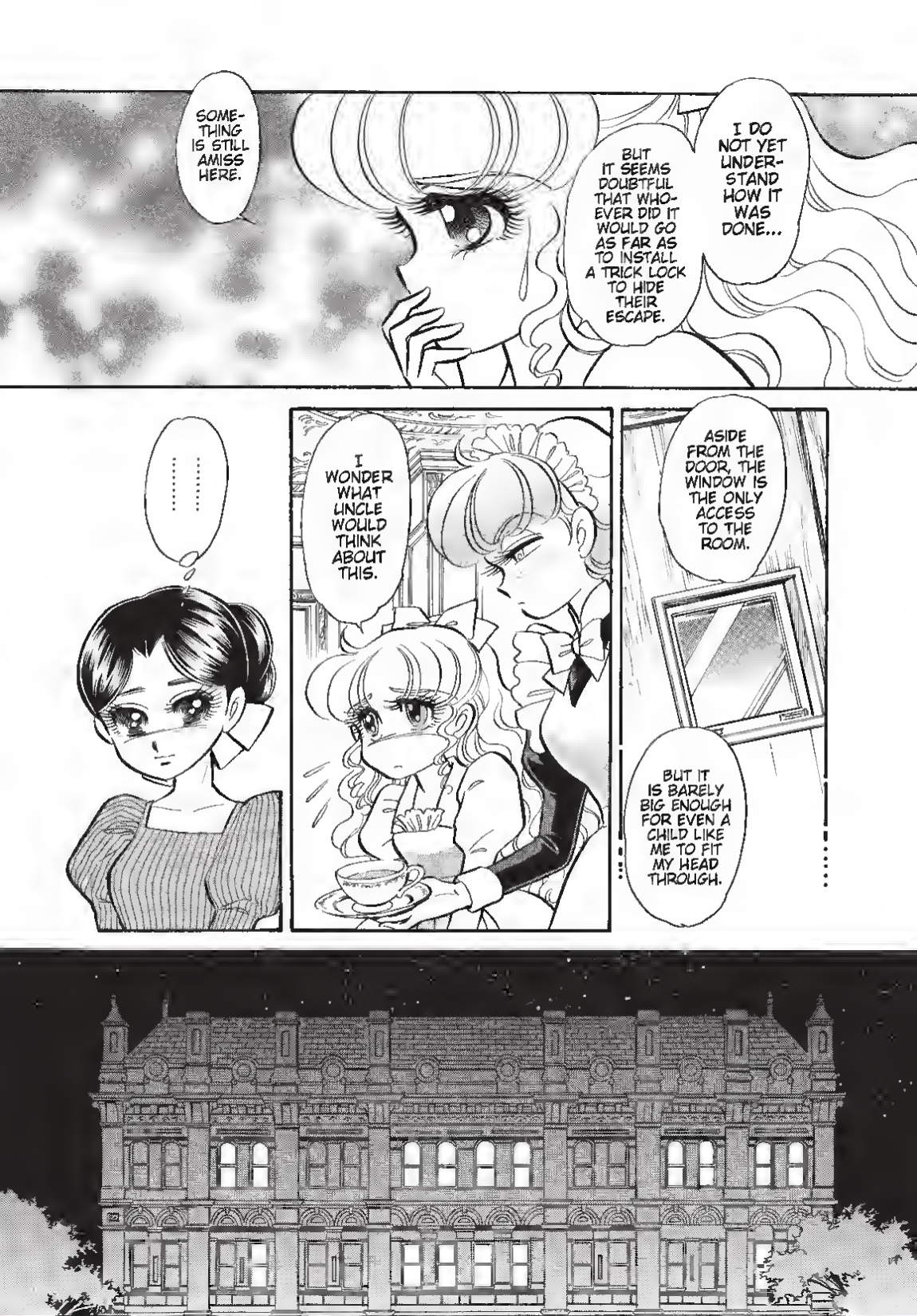

カチャン
KLIK



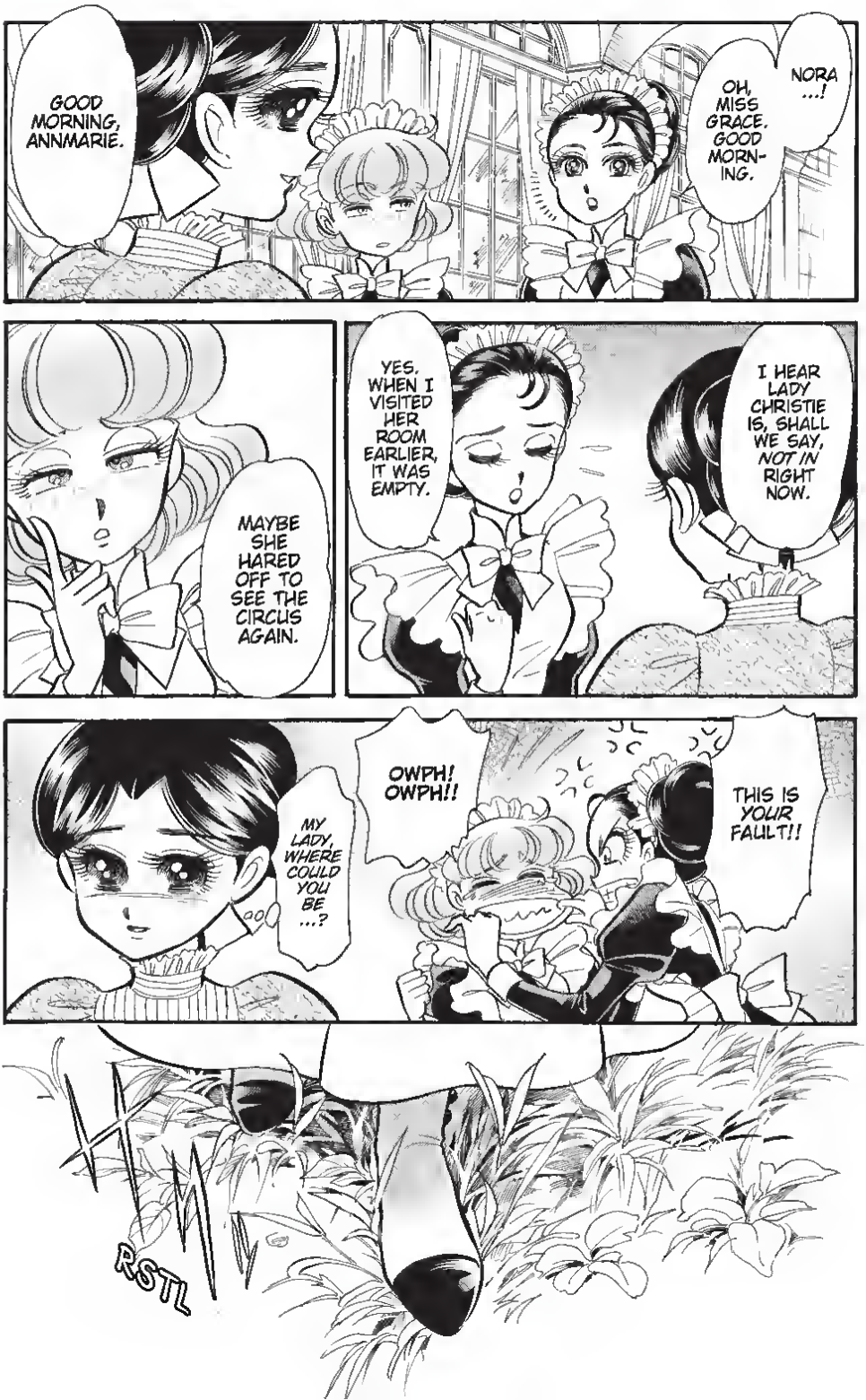
SCRUNCH
SO NARROW!!
KREEE
M'LADY, PLEASE! YOU SHOULDN'T DO SUCH RASH THINGS.
KRAKK
OOF! THAT DID NOT GO WELL.
KRAKK
FLAIL
FLAIL
.....
WELL, DID YOU FIND ANYTHING INTEREST-ING?

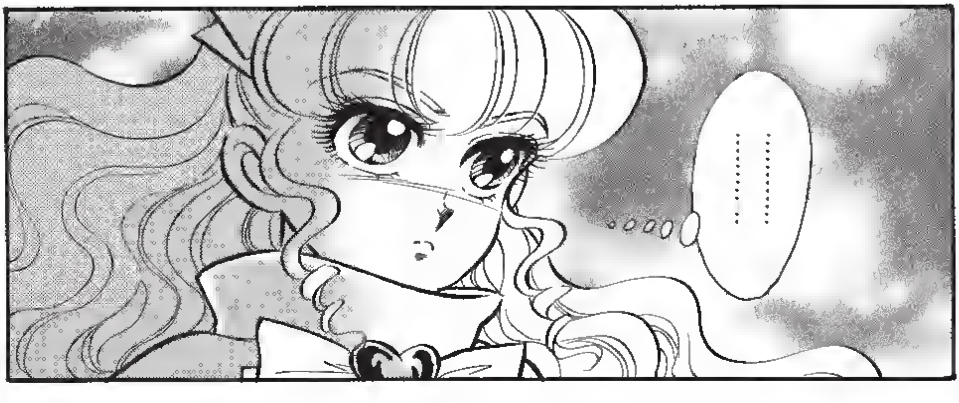
WE COULDN'T TURN UP A THING, EITHER.
WE DID OUR OWN SEARCH OF THE PREMISES.
NOT ONE ROTTING THING.
WE CIRCLED THE PLACE THREE WHOLE TIMES, AND NOT A SINGLE FOOT-PRINT.
IT'S FLOWING AWFULLY FAST. I WOULD THINK TETHERING A BOAT WOULD BE DIFFICULT.
RECKON THEY MIGHT'VE COME UP FROM THE RIVER?
SPLOOOOOSH
アアアア

SO. HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW. EVERY DOOR AND WINDOW WAS LOCKED.
THERE IS NO SIGN OF ANY INTRUSION FROM THE OUTSIDE.
NO CASH OR VALUABLES WERE STOLEN.
PERHAPS SHE WAS KILLED BY A CLIENT WITH A GRUDGE.
SOUNDS RIGHT TO ME. THAT OLD BIDDY WASN'T WELL LIKED AT ALL.
PEOPLE CALLED HER OL' BERTHA, THE GOBLIN CRONE.
I FIGURE SHE'S GOTTA HAVE ENEMIES IN EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF LONDON.
NO. A GRUDGE ISN'T ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN THIS.
IF SOMEONE HELD A GRUDGE STRONG ENOUGH TO WISH TO KILL HER...
THEY WOULD HARDLY HIDE IN THE MIDDLE OF HER HOME TO DO IT.
IT IS MORE LIKELY THEY WOULD AMBUSH HER OUTSIDE, MAKING AN ESCAPE EASIER.

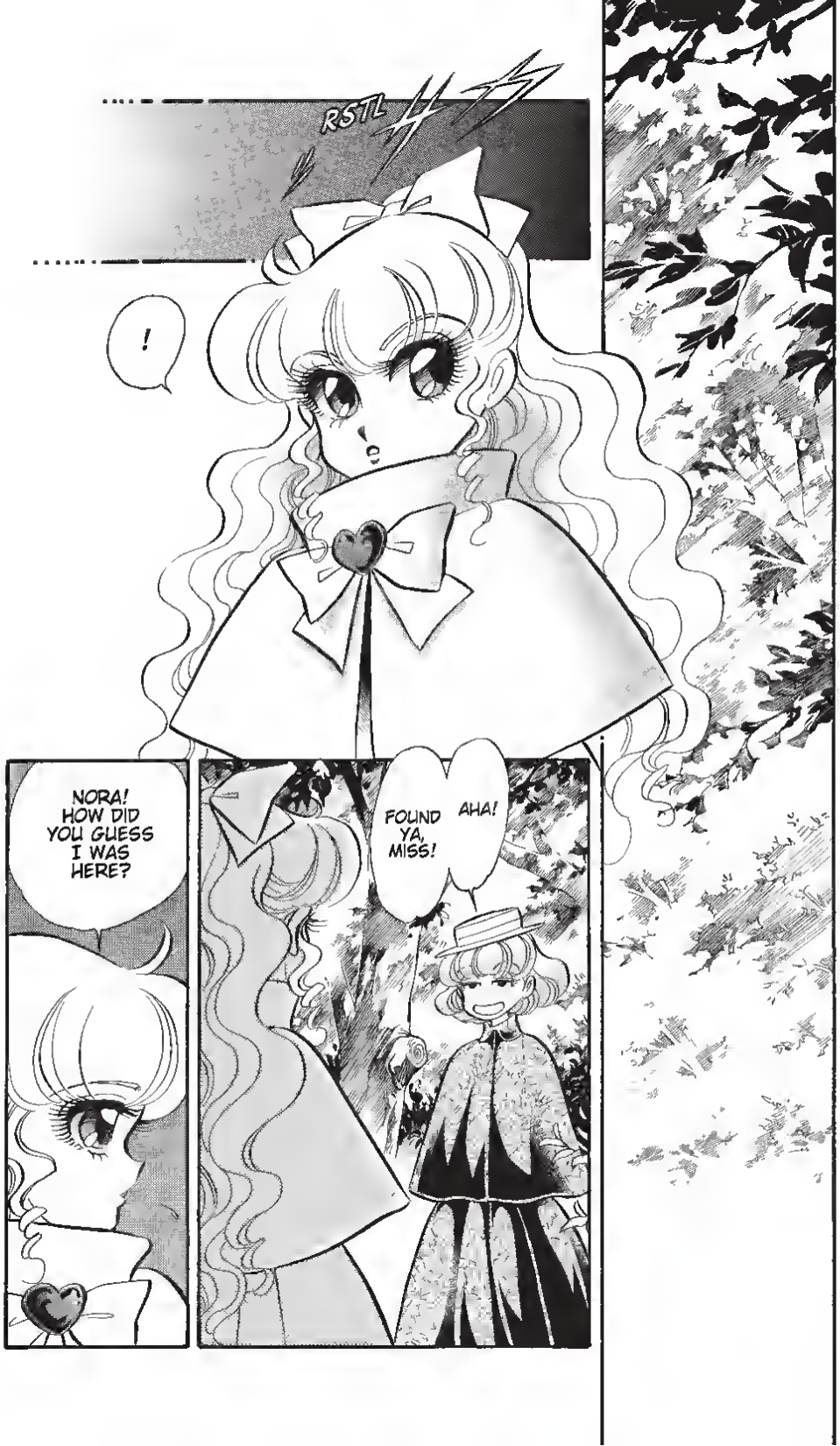

SOME-THING IS STILL AMISS HERE.
I DO NOT YET UNDER-STAND HOW IT WAS DONE...
BUT IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL THAT WHO-EVER DID IT WOULD GO AS FAR AS TO INSTALL A TRICK LOCK TO HIDE THEIR ESCAPE.
.....
I WONDER WHAT UNCLE WOULD THINK ABOUT THIS.
ASIDE FROM THE DOOR, THE WINDOW IS THE ONLY ACCESS TO THE ROOM.
BUT IT IS BARELY BIG ENOUGH FOR EVEN A CHILD LIKE ME TO FIT MY HEAD THROUGH.
.....

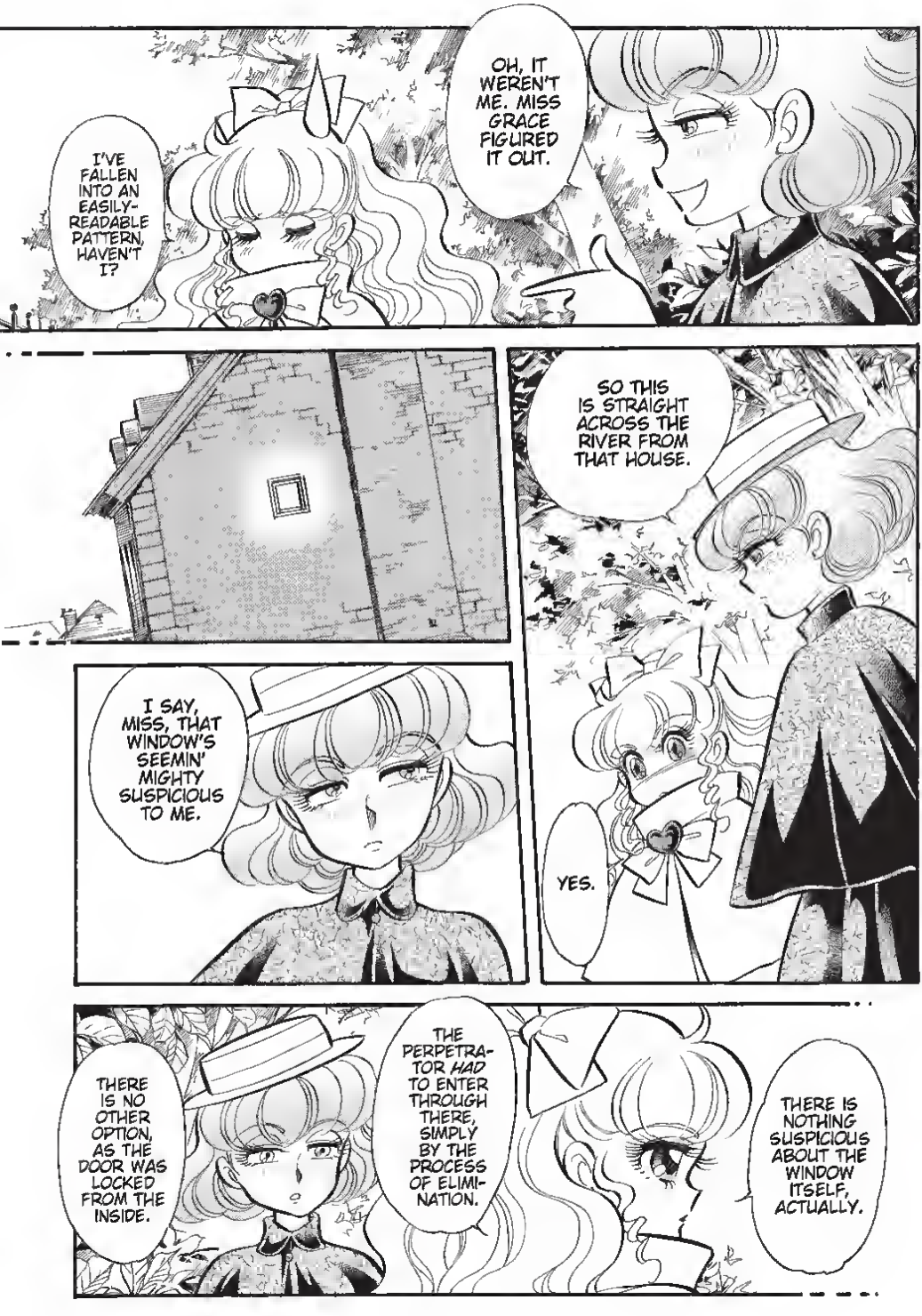
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
CHIRP
CHIRP
PEEP
PEEP
EXCUSE ME...
OH! MORNIN', MISS GRACE.
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE ALL AFLUTTER THIS MORNING.
WELL, UH... Y'SEE...
WHAT?
LADY CHRISTIE IS MISSING?
AYE. IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE SHE'S LAST PULLED A VANISHING ACT LIKE THIS.


GOOD MORNING, ANNMARIE.
NORA ...!
OH, MISS GRACE. GOOD MORN-ING.
MAYBE SHE HARED OFF TO SEE THE CIRCUS AGAIN.
YES. WHEN I VISITED HER ROOM EARLIER, IT WAS EMPTY.
I HEAR LADY CHRISTIE IS, SHALL WE SAY, NOT IN RIGHT NOW.
MY LADY, WHERE COULD YOU BE ...?
OWPH! OWPH!!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT!!
RSTL



The Adventure of the Flying Dancer (2)


RSTL
!
NORA! HOW DID YOU GUESS I WAS HERE?
AHA! FOUND YA, MISS!


I'VE FALLEN INTO AN EASILY-READABLE PATTERN, HAVEN'T I?
OH, IT WEREN'T ME. MISS GRACE FIGURED IT OUT.
SO THIS IS STRAIGHT ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THAT HOUSE.
YES.
I SAY, MISS, THAT WINDOW'S SEEMIN' MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS TO ME.
THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION, AS THE DOOR WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE.
THE PERPETRATOR *HAD* TO ENTER THROUGH THERE, SIMPLY BY THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION.
THERE IS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE WINDOW ITSELF, ACTUALLY.

WITH A MAGNET.
BUT SO WAS THE WINDOW, RIGHT? HOW'D THEY GET THAT LOCK OPEN, THEN?
THE LOCK CAN ONLY BE OPENED OR CLOSED FROM THE INSIDE, YES.
BUT THE MECHANISM ITSELF IS BUT A SIMPLE METAL ROD.
THE HANDLE ON THE INSIDE MAY BE MADE OF BRASS...
BUT THE ACTUAL BOLT IS COMPOSED OF IRON.
THE WOOD OF THE WINDOW FRAME IS NOT VERY THICK.
A MODERATELY POWERFUL MAGNET HELD OUTSIDE THE FRAME WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE THE BOLT.
LAWKS!
YOU GOT THE WHOLE THING ALL WORKED OUT, MISS!
WHO DID IT? HOW'D THEY GET IN THE LOCKED ROOM?
I DO NOT KNOW WHO DID IT JUST YET.

IN FACT, I AM BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THE PERPETRATOR WAS NOT HUMAN AT ALL.
NOT HUMAN?
OH...
HE CALLED IT "THE ADVENTURE OF THE CROOKED MAN."
DR. WATSON ONCE TOLD ME ABOUT ONE OF UNCLE'S MORE INTRIGUING CASES.
TRAINED ANIMALS, EH?
BUT THE PRIMARY SUSPECT HAD A TRAINED ANIMAL HE USED FOR TRICKS AND SHOWS.
WELL, IT WAS LATER DISCOVERED TO HAVE BEEN MERELY AN ACCIDENT...
IT WAS ABOUT A MURDER IN ALDERSHOT...

IT IS A SMALL CARNIVORE OF THE FAMILY VIVERRIDAE.
IN APPEARANCE, IT IS LIKE A WEASEL, BUT LARGER.
YES. IT WAS AN EXOTIC CREATURE CALLED A "MONGOOSE." DO YOU KNOW OF THEM?
CAN'T SAY AS I'VE HEARD OF ANY CRITTER WITH THAT FUNNY A NAME.
NO, NOT SPECIFICALLY.
HUH. SO WAS IT ONE OF THEM "MOON-GOOSE" CRITTERS THAT DID THIS, TOO?
IN FACT, THEY ARE OFTEN TRAINED AND THEN SET TO FIGHT DEFANGED COBRAS AS A FORM OF SHOW.
THEY ARE QUITE ADEPT AT CATCHING AND KILLING SNAKES.
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE A CLEVER ANIMAL. PERHAPS A MONKEY.
AND THAT THE BEAST WAS SENT IN THROUGH THE WINDOW.
HOWEVER, I DO SUSPECT THAT OUR PERPETRATOR HAD A TRAINED ANIMAL...

PER-HAPS ...
BUT GETTIN' IT TO OPEN A LOCKED WINDOW, DO SOMEONE IN, AND THEN LOCK THE WINDOW ON ITS WAY BACK OUT IS A MITE OF A STRETCH.
SAY, MISS? YOU COULD HAVE THE SMARTEST CRITTER IN THE WORLD...
THAT MUTT DIDN'T DO NO MATH. ALL IT DID WAS FOLLOW THE TRAINER'S HAND SIGNS.
IF A DOG CAN DO MATH, THEN A MONKEY CAN BE TRAINED TO LOCK A WINDOW!
STILL, THERE ARE SOME VERY CLEVER ANIMALS.
REMEMBER THE DOG AT THE CIRCUS? IT COULD EVEN DO SIMPLE MATH!
1+1=
5-2=
8-2=6
AYE. ALL THE MUTT HAD TO DO WAS PICK UP THE CARD THAT MATCHED THE SIGNAL.
THEY WERE?
HE WAS ALWAYS WRINGING HIS HANDS OR HOLDING HIS STICK THIS WAY AND THAT. REMEMBER?
THOSE WERE SIGNALS.
3
5
7
9
1

I WONDER HOW MUCH TRAINING THAT WOULD TAKE.
ER, WELL... THE MUTT STILL HAD TO BE SMART ENOUGH TO REMEMBER ALL THEM SIGNALS AND WHICH CARD GOES WITH 'EM.
SO THAT'S ALL IT WAS...
WHAT, THINKING OF TEACHING NELSON SOME TRICKS?
WE COULD TRY GOIN' BACK TO THE CIRCUS, Y'KNOW.
BET THEY'D TELL US TWO OR THREE, IF WE ASKED NICE-LIKE.
YES, THAT IS TRUE...
NO. 2
CIRCUS

MY, THE CIRCUS CAN BE A STRANGELY LONELY PLACE WHEN THERE IS NO SHOW BEING PERFORMED.
WELL, IT IS STILL EARLY MORNING AND ALL.
THE PERFORMERS FROM THE EVENING SHOW ARE PROBABLY STILL SLEEPIN'.
THERE'S OTHERS THAT GOTTA LOOK AFTER THE ANIMALS.
YOU CERTAINLY KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT THE CIRCUS, NORA.
AYE. CIRCUS-FOLK ARE LIKE TINKERS, Y'KNOW.
MY FAMILY ONCE SPENT ABOUT A YEAR TAGGIN' ALONG WITH A CIRCUS.
SO I FIGURE I KNOW MOST OF WHAT GOES ON, INSIDE AND OUT.

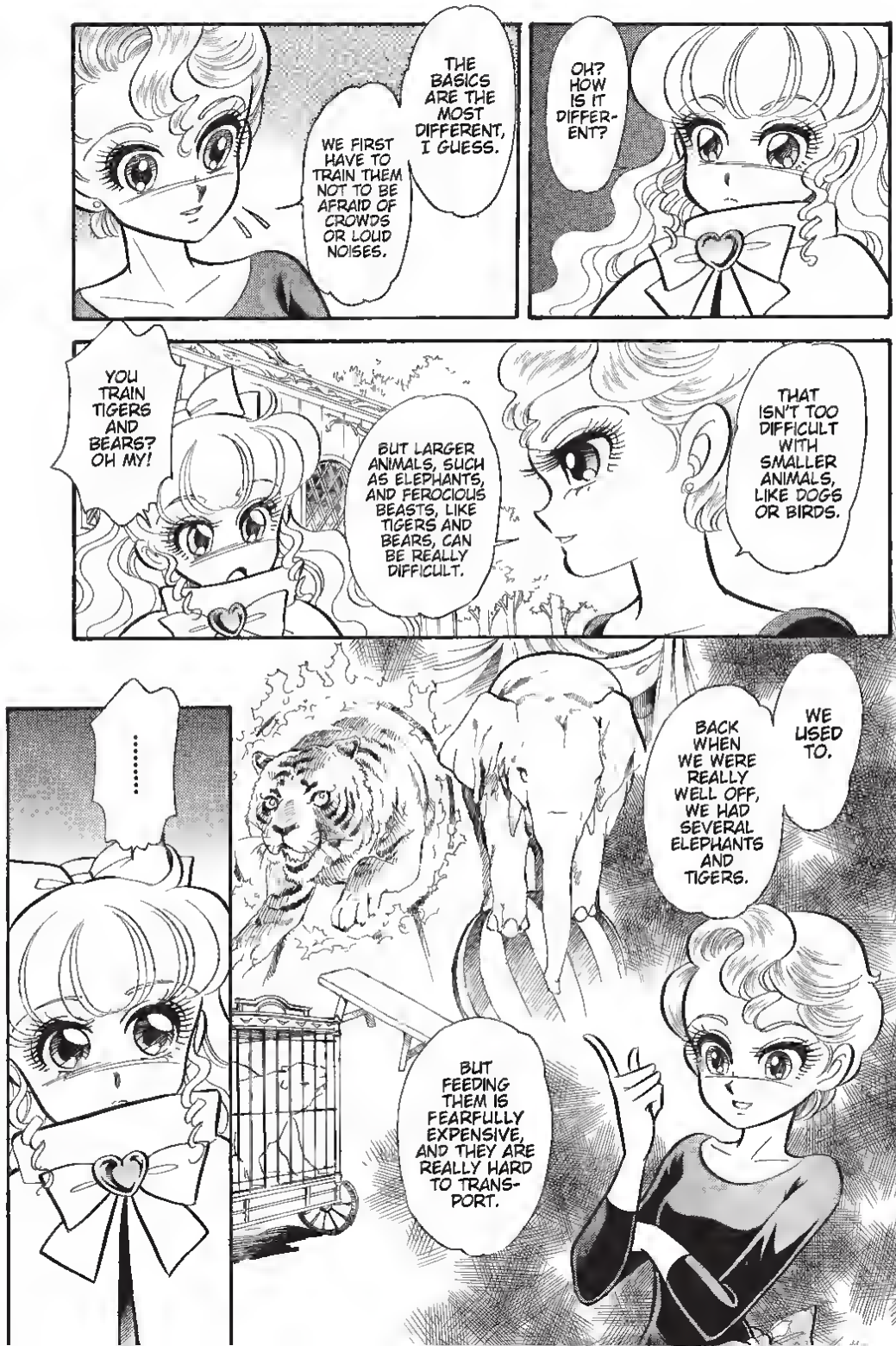
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
THE WIND TOOK SOME OF THE LAUNDRY.
BLEW IT ALL THE WAY UP TO THAT BRANCH.
I'LL HAVE TO GO FIND A LONGER STICK...
AIN'T NO NEED FOR THAT.
I CAN FETCH IT.
OH?
POP
ZWISH

FWIF
CLAP
MONI-CA.
AMA-ZING!
YOU HAVE QUITE A HAND WITH YOUR WHIP!
CLAP
SPLAT
HERE!

VERY FINE!
YOU COULD MAKE A LIVING WITH THAT WHIP.
PLOP
PLOP
CONSIDER THIS HERE. THANKS FOR FETCHING DOWN OUR LAUNDRY.
SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
MIND YOU, THE NEXT PERFOR-MANCE ISN'T UNTIL THIS AFTER-NOON.

ER, MY LADY.
WHY YES, I WAS. I'M SURPRISED YOU KNOW ME OUT OF MY COSTUME ...
M-MY... I'M GLAD YOU ARE A GIRL.
IF YOU WERE A BOY, YOU MIGHT HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE IN SOME UNSAVORY FIELDS.
WHO COULD FORGET THAT?!
OF COURSE I RECOGNIZED YOU! THE LOVELY GRAY EYES, THE GOLDEN HAIR, THE CREAMY WHITE SKIN...
YOU WERE THE PRETTY GIRL ON THE FLYING TRAPEZE!
OH! I REMEMBER YOU!
I'M VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MISS... ERM...?
BUT NO MATTER. MY NAME IS MONICA. AS YOU GUESSED, I'M A TRAPEZE ARTIST.
AND THE WHIP ARTIST IS NORA.
CHRISTIE.

DOG TRAIN-ING?
YES. I WAS CURIOUS HOW ONE WOULD GO ABOUT TRAINING ANIMALS.
YOU KNOW. DOGS. HORSES.
CIRC
HM. I CAN SEE WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW.
I IMAGINE YOUR FOLK WOULD OWN BOTH DOGS AND HORSES.
YOUR KIT LOOKS FASHION-ABLE AND COSTLY, AND IT'S CLEAN.
YOUR HAIR LOOKS CARED FOR, AND HAS A HEALTHY LUSTER TO IT.
AND, MOST TELLING OF ALL, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL MAID ACCOM-PANYING YOU.
SO IT'S OBVIOUS THAT YOU ARE A VERY WELL-TO-DO YOUNG LADY, PERHAPS EVEN A NOBLE.
.....
SMIRK
WHY NOT SIMPLY HIRE A TRAINER, SINCE YOU'VE LIKELY GOT THE MONEY?
CIRCUS ANIMALS GET DIFFERENT TRAINING THAN REGULAR BEASTS, ANYWAY.


THE BASICS ARE THE MOST DIFFERENT, I GUESS.
WE FIRST HAVE TO TRAIN THEM NOT TO BE AFRAID OF CROWDS OR LOUD NOISES.
OH? HOW IS IT DIFFERENT?
YOU TRAIN TIGERS AND BEARS? OH MY!
BUT LARGER ANIMALS, SUCH AS ELEPHANTS, AND FEROCIOUS BEASTS, LIKE TIGERS AND BEARS, CAN BE REALLY DIFFICULT.
THAT ISN'T TOO DIFFICULT WITH SMALLER ANIMALS, LIKE DOGS OR BIRDS.
.....
BUT FEEDING THEM IS FEARFULLY EXPENSIVE, AND THEY ARE REALLY HARD TO TRANS-PORT.
BACK WHEN WE WERE REALLY WELL OFF, WE HAD SEVERAL ELEPHANTS AND TIGERS.
WE USED TO.

THANK YOU!
WAIT THERE. I'LL BE BACK IN TWO SHAKES!
BUT I DOUBT YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT HOW TO TRAIN SUCH BEASTS. LET ME CALL SYDNEY, THE DOG TRAINER.
THOSE CIRCUSES RACK UP DEBT AND NOT MUCH ELSE.
SMALLER ONES THAT HAVE TO KEEP MOVIN' AROUND ...
HUNH. GUESS A CIRCUS NEEDS TO GET BIG ENOUGH THAT IT CAN SET DOWN ROOTS IN SOME CITY OR ANOTHER BEFORE IT CAN HANDLE BIG CRITTERS.
DEBT
DRAT! THIS IS TOO CHARRED FOR ME TO READ IT WELL.
SOME-THING SOME-THING DEBT?
IS THIS PERHAPS A PROMISSORY NOTE?

The Adventure of the Flying Dancer (3)

A PROMIS-SORY NOTE?
BUT WHOSE IS IT?
Bill Berkeley
125
'EY, MISS? WHAT'RE YE ROOTIN' AROUND IN THERE FOR? THAT'S JUST A REGULAR OLD RUBBISH HEAP.
C'MON, MISS. YOU'LL GET YOURSELF ALL FILTHY.
AND THEN ANNMARIE'LL BEND MY EARS BUT GOOD WHEN WE GET HOME.
Oh, hush a moment!
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING SO LONG.
I'VE BROUGHT OUR DOG TRAINER.
MISS, IT LOOKS LIKE THE TRAINER IS HERE.

WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, HOW WELL YOU CAN TRAIN YOUR DOG DEPENDS ON HOW MUCH TRUST YOU CAN BUILD BETWEEN YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR. THAT WAS VERY ENLIGHTENING.
COME, NORA. IT'S TIME WE WENT HOME.
HOW'S THAT? ALREADY, MISS?
IS SOME-THIN' WRONG ?
I FORGOT SOME-THING VERY IMPOR-TANT.
WE NEED TO VISIT SCOTLAND YARD.

WHAT? YOU WANT TO SEE AN AUTOPSY REPORT?
WE WENT TO SEE MR. HOLMES, AND HE IS NOT THE "GENERAL PUBLIC."
I SEE. A PITY. YOU ARE PRECISELY THE SORT OF MAN ANNMARIE CANNOT TOLERATE.
CAN'T DO THAT, MISSY.
THOSE AREN'T THINGS THE GENERAL PUBLIC GETS TO SEE.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS THE ONE YOU CAME TO FOR AID ON THIS CASE?
WHAT?
MEN WHO USE POWER AND PRIVILEGE AS AN EXCUSE TO HAVE THEIR WAY. ANNMARIE CANNOT STAND SUCH MEN.

DEXTER, WHATEVER ARE YOU DOING?
GET BACK TO WORK.
ER... YES, INSPECTOR. SORRY.
HAVE PITY, M'LADY. DEXTER ISN'T THE TYPE TO LET POWER GO TO HIS HEAD.
HE'S BEEN PUT IN CHARGE OF THAT CASE, AND IT'S GOT HIM MORE NERVOUS THAN A LONG-TAILED CAT IN A ROOM FULL OF ROCKERS.
YOU HEARD US?
WONDERFUL! THEN YOU KNOW I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AUTOPSY REPORT.
OH! AND THE SABER-- THE MURDER WEAPON.
AND EVERYTHING MRS. NOWAK HAD ON HER PERSON AT THE TIME OF HER DEATH. IS THAT POSSIBLE?
MUCH AS I'D LIKE TO, YOU WON'T *LET* ME SAY NO, WILL YOU?

WHAT IS THIS LEDGER?
THERE WASN'T A TANG TO SPEAK OF, SO THE HILT WAS HOLLOW.
IT WAS A PURELY DECORATIVE BLADE, AND A CHEAP ONE AT THAT.
LAWKS! THAT THING'S ALL TWISTED LIKE A BENT TWIG.
MY!
WE THINK IT IS LIKELY SOME SORT OF CODE.
WE HAVEN'T YET DETERMINED WHAT THOSE NUMBERS REPRESENT.
.....
LOOK AT ALL THEM NUMBERS. I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN SO MANY AT ONCE.

CASH AND PRECIOUS METALS-- SEVERAL THOUSAND POUNDS WORTH.
WHAT WAS IN THE SAFE?
SHE ALSO HAD A POCKET WATCH, A HANDKER-CHIEF, AND A RING OF KEYS, WHICH INCLUDE THE KEYS TO HER SAFE.
AH, WE HAVE A STATEMENT FROM THE MAID ON THAT ONE.
I SEE... THE SABER DOESN'T SEEM TO FIT, TO MY MIND. WHY WOULD THAT BE IN THE ROOM?
NOW THAT THERE'S A PROPER SKIN-FLINT ...
QUITE IN KEEPING FOR A BACK-ALLEY MONEY-LENDER, I WOULD THINK.
SO MRS. NOWAK HAD A SMALL CHARCOAL STOVE INSTALLED.
SHE USED THE SABER TO STOKE THE FIRE, INSTEAD OF GETTING A POKER.
IT SEEMS THAT ROOM WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT AS A STORAGE SPACE OR CLOSET OF SOME KIND.
THERE WAS NO WAY TO WARM IT.

AS FOR THE CORONER'S REPORT, THERE WASN'T MUCH TO BE FOUND.
THE BLADE PIERCED THE DECEASED'S CHEST TO THE RIGHT OF THE SOLAR PLEXUS, MOVED UPWARDS THROUGH THE HEART, AND CAME OUT ON THE LEFT SIDE OF HER BACK.
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS EXCESSIVE BLOOD LOSS.
WE HAVE SEVERAL PHOTO-GRAPHS OF THE AUTOPSY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THOSE, TOO?
ERM... NO, THANK YOU. THAT SHAN'T BE NECES-SARY.
BUT IF UNCLE SHOULD FIND A NEED FOR THEM, I AM CERTAIN HE WILL ASK.

I AIN'T HAD A BITE SINCE BREAKFAST, AND THESE SCONES ARE FIRST RATE!
MMM! NOW THESE HIT THE SPOT, THEY DO!
GLEAM
WHAT, AREN'TCHA GONNA EAT YOURS, MISS?
HN?
BAM
WELL, NOW. WOULDN'T WANT 'EM TO GO TO WASTE...
HEH HEH ...
IT IS TIME WE CLOSE IN ON THE TRUTH!
THE DAY IS NOT YET OVER.

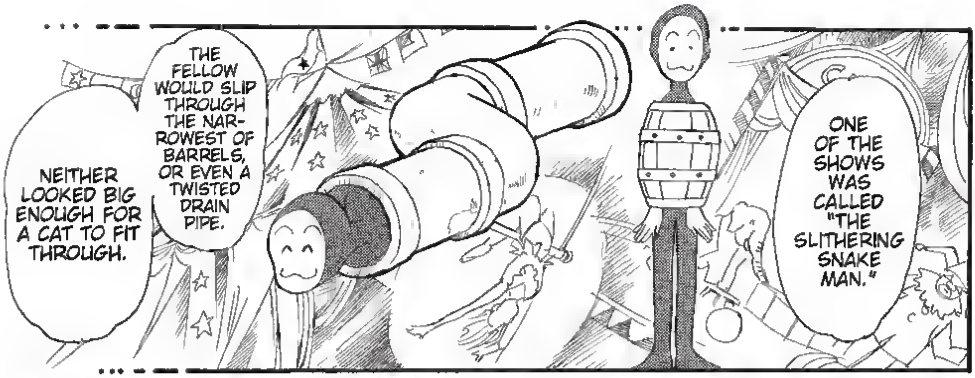
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
CHIRP
SPLOOSH
?
TP
TP
TP
WELL, WE'RE BACK AT THAT PARK ACROSS FROM THE HOUSE.
NOW WHAT?
WE SEARCH. BEFORE THE SUN GOES DOWN AND WE ARE UNABLE TO SEE.

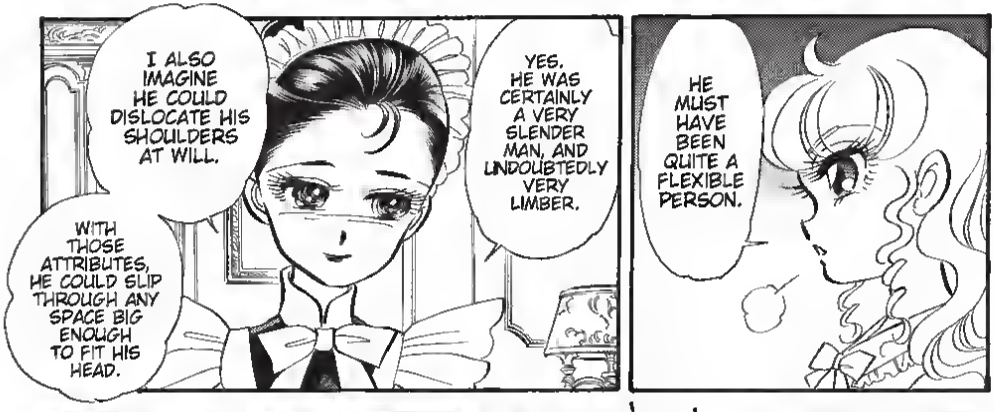
EH?
NORA?
COULD YOU CLIMB THIS TREE?
AYE, I COULD GET UP THERE, IF THAT'S WHAT YER AFTER. WON'T BE CLIMBIN' UP, MIND YOU.
SWAK
TMP
ZWISH
WOOOSH

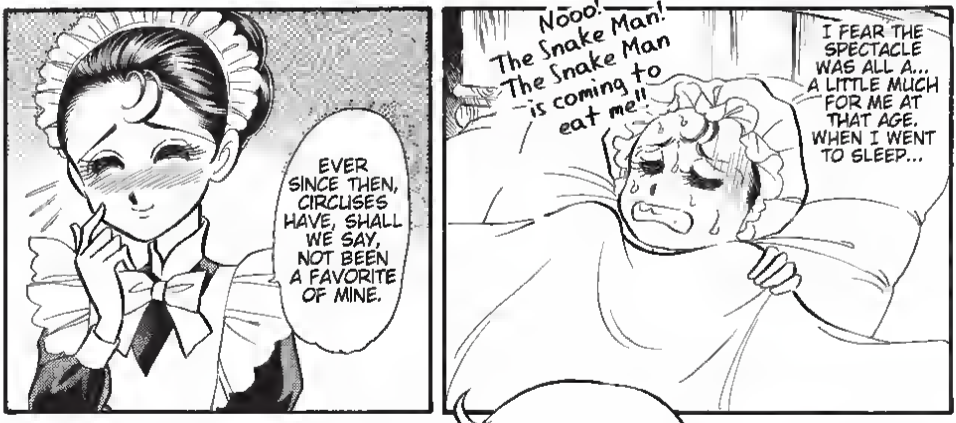
NORA, THAT WAS AMAZING! YOU COULD PERFORM IN A CIRCUS YOURSELF.
NOW, WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME, MISS?
TMP
BIT OF A CHALLENGE. HUP!
OOF! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE TRIED CLIMBIN' A TREE IN A DRESS.
SEE IF YOU CAN'T GET A LITTLE HIGHER ...
AND EXAMINE THE BRANCHES AND TRUNK FOR ANY ODD MARKS OR SCUFFS!
!

'EY, MISS! I FOUND SOMETHING.
WHAT IS IT?
THE BARK IS ALL RUBBED AND SCUFFED UP HERE.
LOOKS A BIT AS IF A POLE WAS SET IN THE CROOK HERE AND TIED DOWN, BUT THEN RUBBED EVERY WHICH WAY.
EXCELLENT! THANK YOU, NORA.
YOU CAN COME DOWN.
AHA HA HA! WONDERFUL WORK, NORA. LET US GO HOME.

I'M VERY GLAD NORA DECIDED TO COME LOOK FOR ME. SHE WAS MOST HELPFUL.
MY GOODNESS! THAT IS HOW YOU SPENT YOUR ENTIRE DAY, MY LADY?
YES. AND SHE WAS SPRY ENOUGH TO MAKE A MONKEY JEALOUS.
SHE COULD MAKE A GOOD LIVING WITH A CIRCUS. I'M SURE OF IT!
I HEAR YOU ASKED HER TO CLIMB A TREE.
I WENT TO A CIRCUS ONCE, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG THING.
Annmarie (10 years old)
?
I WOULD RATHER NOT, MY LADY.
YOU SIMPLY *MUST* SEE IT WHILE IT IS STILL HERE, ANNMARIE! IT'S QUITE FUN.

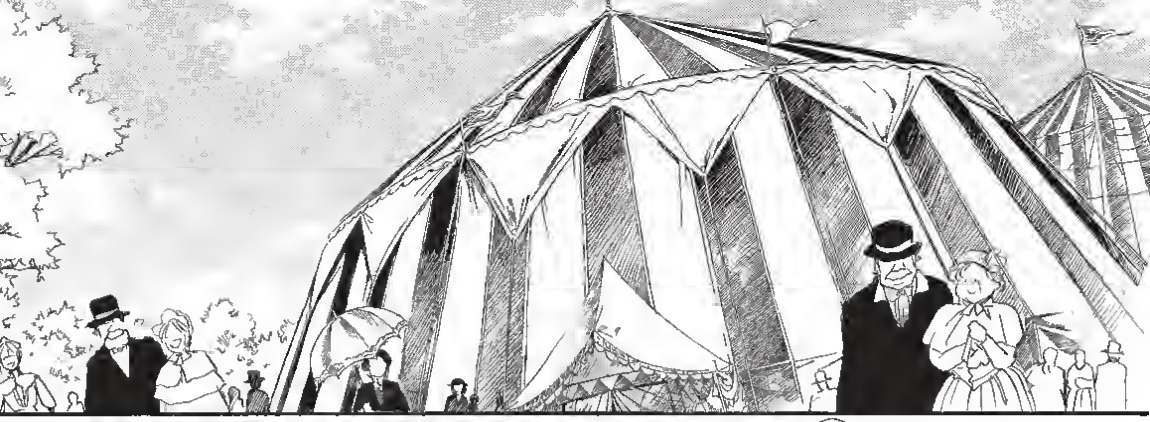

ONE OF THE SHOWS WAS CALLED "THE SLITHERING SNAKE MAN."
THE FELLOW WOULD SLIP THROUGH THE NARROWEST OF BARRELS, OR EVEN A TWISTED DRAIN PIPE.
NEITHER LOOKED BIG ENOUGH FOR A CAT TO FIT THROUGH.

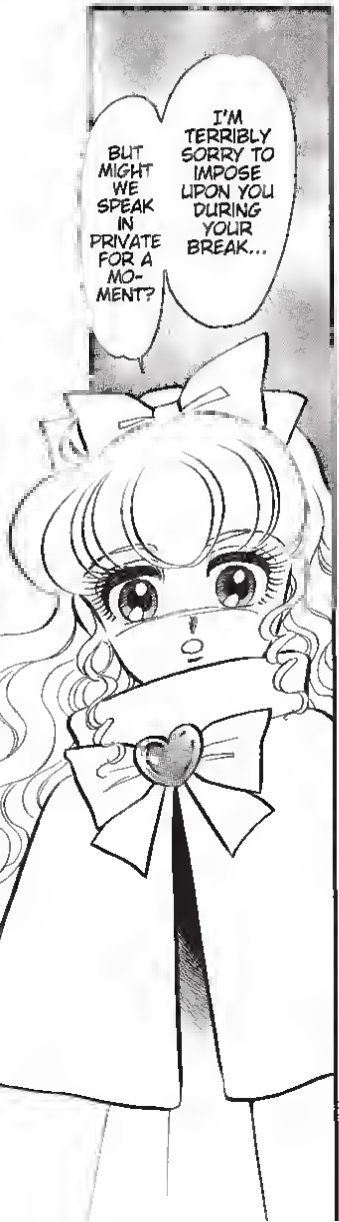

HE MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A FLEXIBLE PERSON.
YES. HE WAS CERTAINLY A VERY SLENDER MAN, AND UNDOUBTEDLY VERY LIMBER.
I ALSO IMAGINE HE COULD DISLOCATE HIS SHOULDERS AT WILL.
WITH THOSE ATTRIBUTES, HE COULD SLIP THROUGH ANY SPACE BIG ENOUGH TO FIT HIS HEAD.

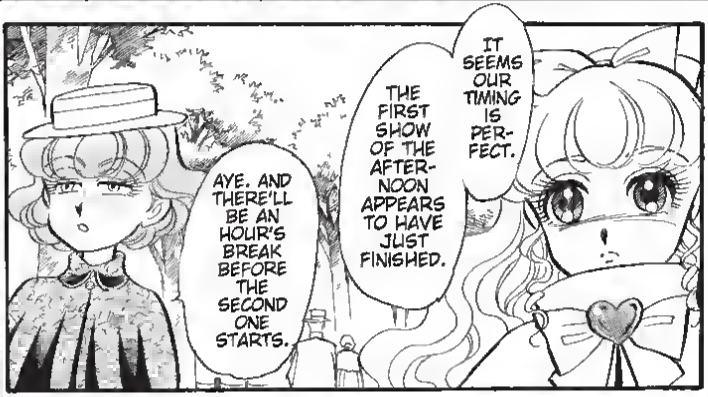

I FEAR THE SPECTACLE WAS ALL A... A LITTLE MUCH FOR ME AT THAT AGE. WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP...
Nooo! The Snake Man! The Snake Man is coming to eat me!!
EVER SINCE THEN, CIRCUSES HAVE, SHALL WE SAY, NOT BEEN A FAVORITE OF MINE.

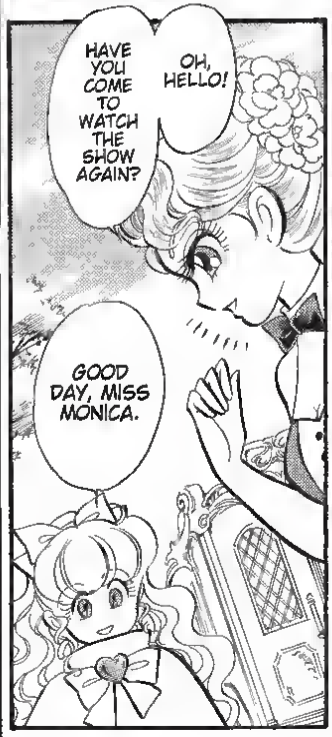
AH! I THINK I'VE JUST SOLVED THE LAST PIECE OF THE PUZZLE.

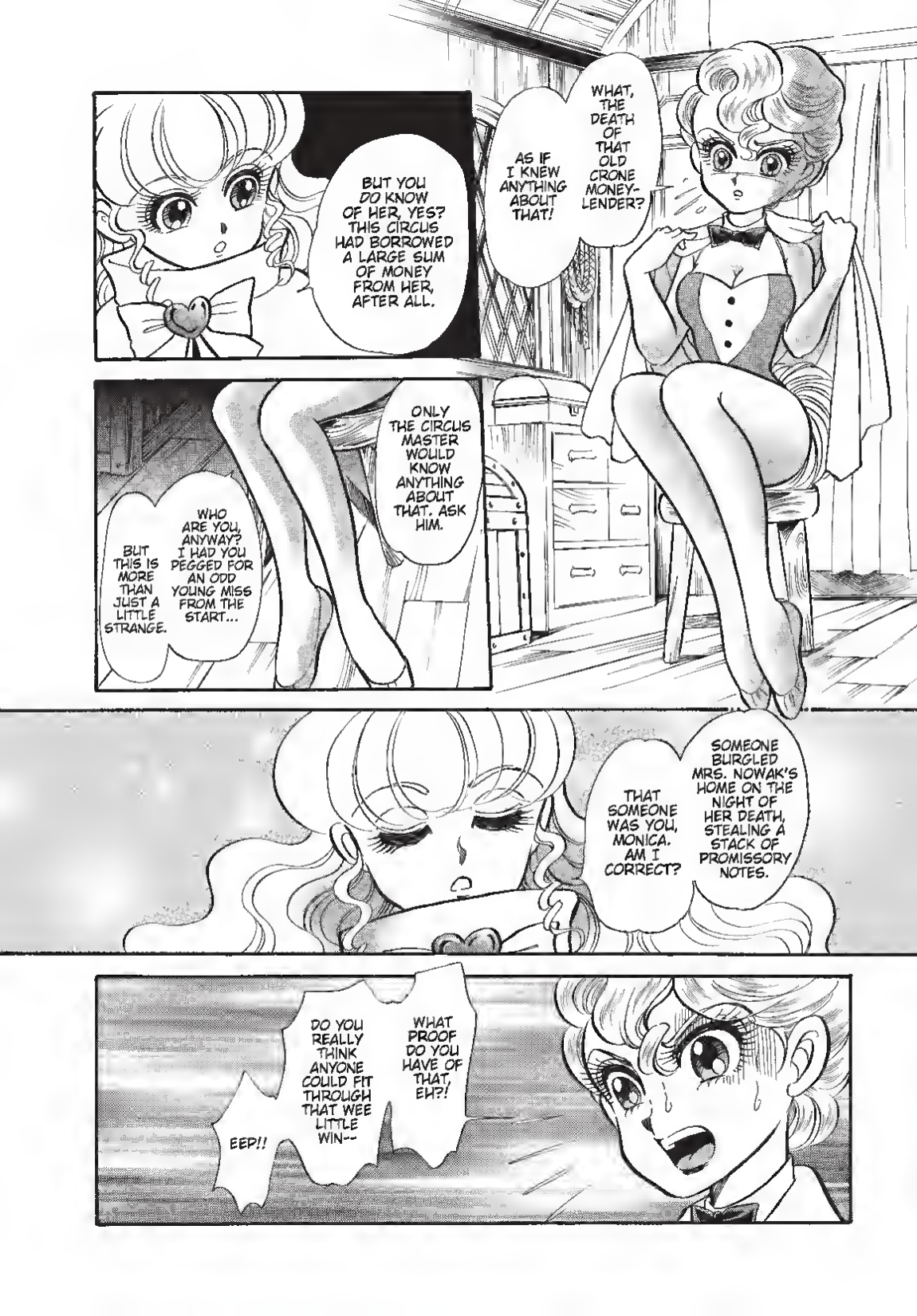
WE ARE GOING TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND OUR MYSTERY.
NO. THAT IS NOT OUR PURPOSE TODAY.
YOU AIMIN' TO SEE THE CIRCUS AGAIN ALREADY, MISS?
HOW'S THAT AGAIN?!
OOH! FOUND OUR CROOK, HAVE YE?
THE "CROOK" WHO STOLE THE PROMISSORY NOTE, AT THE VERY LEAST.
HOWEVER, MRS. NOWAK'S DEATH WAS, I BELIEVE, ENTIRELY ACCIDENTAL.

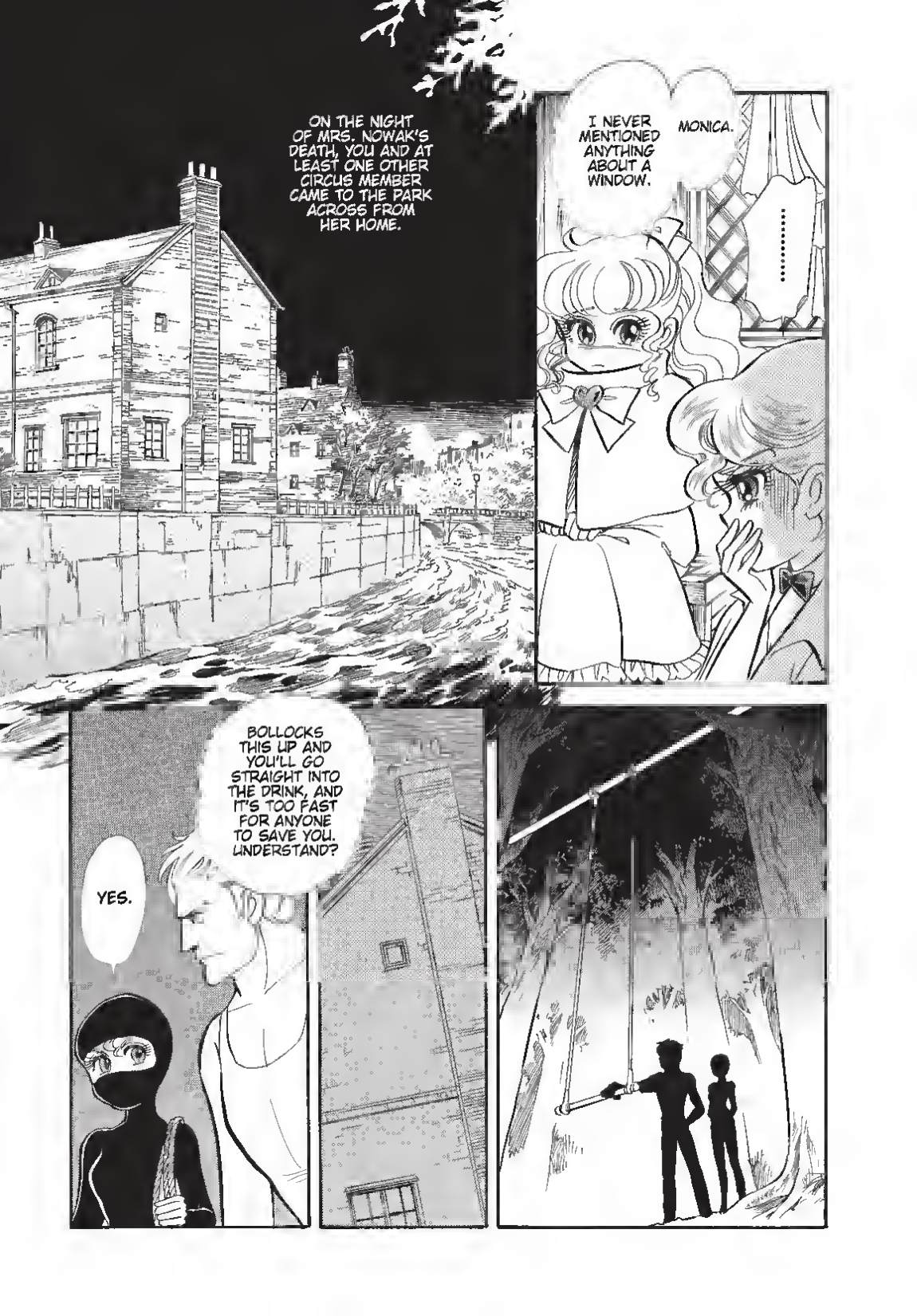



I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO IMPOSE UPON YOU DURING YOUR BREAK...
BUT MIGHT WE SPEAK IN PRIVATE FOR A MO-MENT?

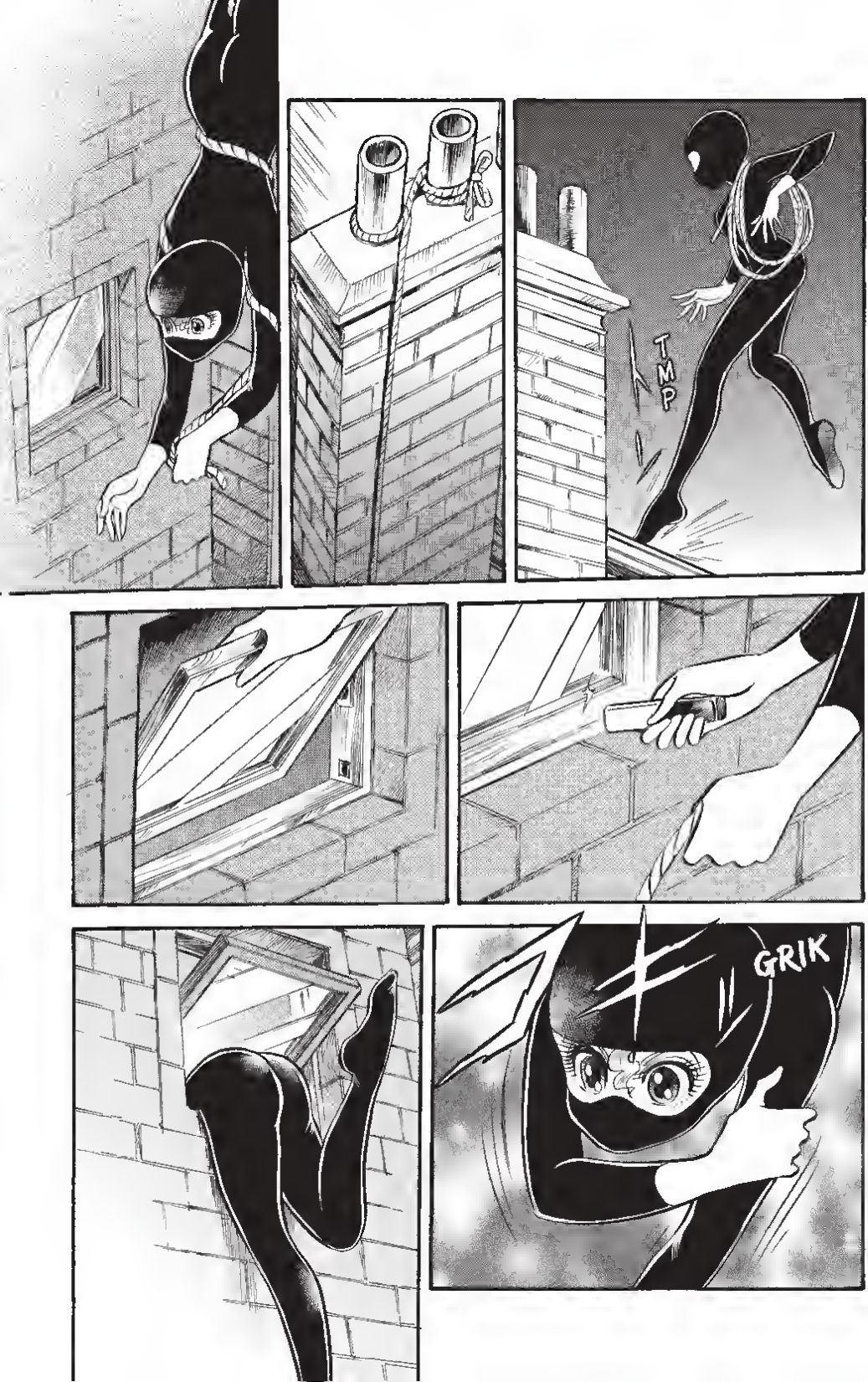

IT SEEMS OUR TIMING IS PER-FECT.
THE FIRST SHOW OF THE AFTER-NOON APPEARS TO HAVE JUST FINISHED.
AYE. AND THERE'LL BE AN HOUR'S BREAK BEFORE THE SECOND ONE STARTS.


OH, HELLO!
HAVE YOU COME TO WATCH THE SHOW AGAIN?
GOOD DAY, MISS MONICA.


WHAT, THE DEATH OF THAT OLD CRONE MONEY-LENDER?
AS IF I KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!
BUT YOU DO KNOW OF HER, YES? THIS CIRCUS HAD BORROWED A LARGE SUM OF MONEY FROM HER, AFTER ALL.
ONLY THE CIRCUS MASTER WOULD KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. ASK HIM.
WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY? I HAD YOU PEGGED FOR AN ODD YOUNG MISS FROM THE START...
BUT THIS IS MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE STRANGE.
SOMEONE BURGLED MRS. NOWAK'S HOME ON THE NIGHT OF HER DEATH, STEALING A STACK OF PROMISSORY NOTES.
THAT SOMEONE WAS YOU, MONICA. AM I CORRECT?
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE OF THAT, EH?!
DO YOU REALLY THINK ANYONE COULD FIT THROUGH THAT WEE LITTLE WIN--
EEP!!


ON THE NIGHT OF MRS. NOWAK'S DEATH, YOU AND AT LEAST ONE OTHER CIRCUS MEMBER CAME TO THE PARK ACROSS FROM HER HOME.
I NEVER MENTIONED ANYTHING ABOUT A WINDOW.
MONICA.
.....
BOLLOCKS THIS UP AND YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT INTO THE DRINK, AND IT'S TOO FAST FOR ANYONE TO SAVE YOU. UNDERSTAND?
YES.

KREAK
KREAK
HAAAH!
WOOOSH
FLY!!
I CAN ONLY MANAGE TWO FULL SWINGS IN A ROW! READYYY...
SWISH

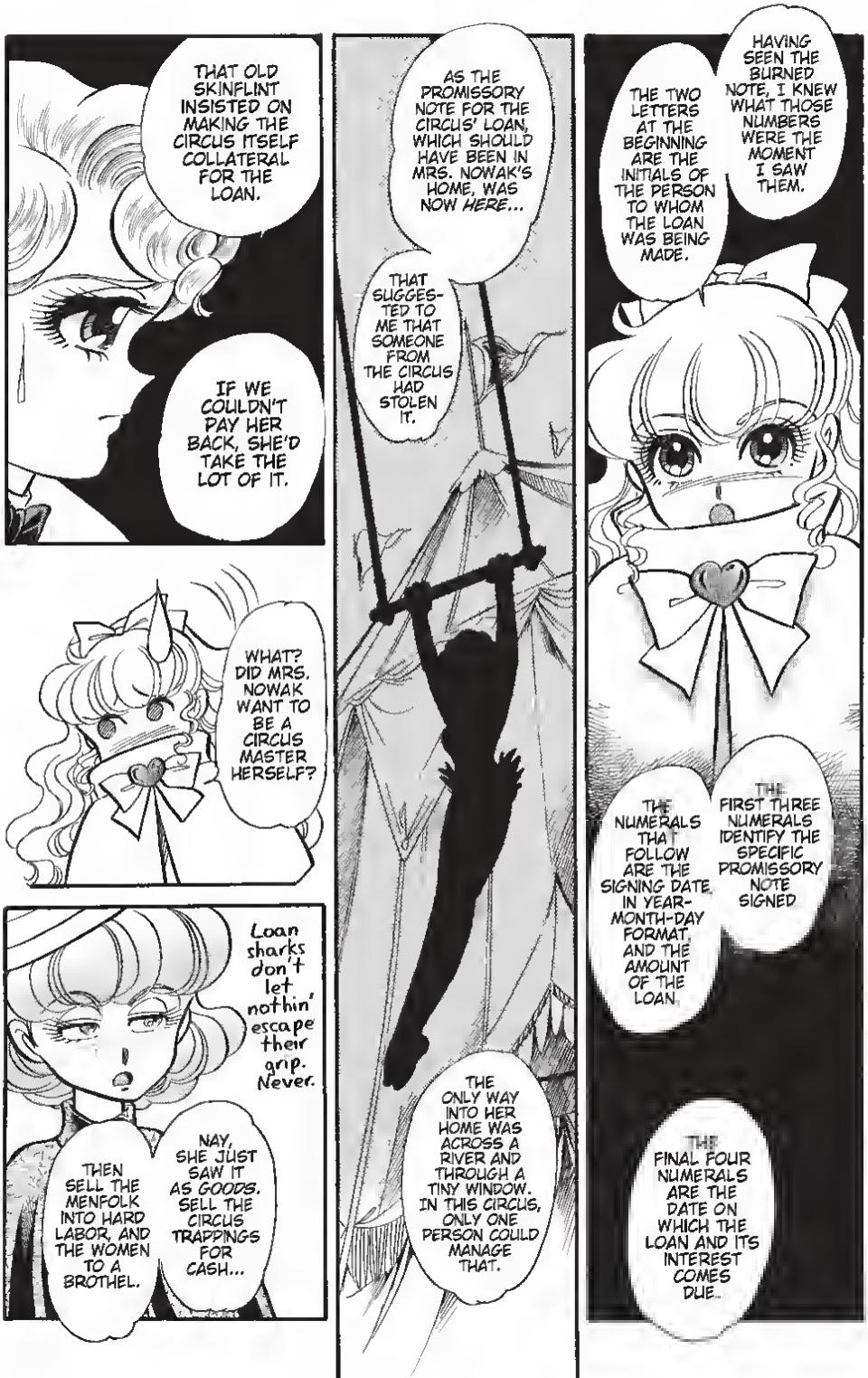

TMP
GRIK

BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN WE MADE SURE NO ONE WAS AROUND!
YOU SAW US?!
NO, WE DID NOT SEE YOU DIRECTLY.
HOWEVER, WE FOUND THE MARKS YOUR TRAPEZE LEFT UPON THE TREES.
I EXPECT THAT WAS EXACTLY HOW YOU MANAGED TO CROSS THE RIVER AND REACH THAT WINDOW.
THOUGH IT WAS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE, IT COULD BE EASILY OPENED.
TRUE, BUT I NEVER KILLED THAT OLD HAG. THAT I SWEAR!
SHE... SHE WAS AL-READY DEAD.
WHEN I GOT IN, SHE WAS LYING ON THE FLOOR WITH SOMETHING SHARP STICKING OUT HER BACK.
SOMEONE MUST'VE GOTTEN THERE BEFORE I DID AND DONE HER IN.
BUT YOU AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE ME, ARE YOU?
I'M THE ONLY ONE YOU CAN PROVE WAS THERE.
NO ONE WAS THERE BEFORE YOU. HER DEATH WAS AN ACCI-DENT.

AYE, YOU SAID THAT BEFORE, MISS. HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?
REMEMBER THE SABER?
WHEN WE SAW IT, IT WAS WARPED AND TWISTED IN AN ODD DIRECTION.
THE HOLLOW HILT HAD COLLAPSED.
WHEN I TOOK A CLOSER LOOK AT IT...
THE COLLAPSED PORTION OF THE HILT LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE A FOOTPRINT.
BECAUSE IT WAS NIGHT, THE ROOM WAS COMPLETELY DARK, AND SHE COULD NOT SEE.
HERE IS THE SCENARIO AS I ENVISION IT.
MRS. NOWAK ENTERED THE ROOM AND LOCKED THE DOOR.
SHE BEGAN FEELING AROUND FOR A CANDLE TO LIGHT. HOWEVER, IT WAS SO DARK THAT SHE NEVER SAW THAT THE SABER, WHICH SHE WAS USING AS A POKER, HAD FALLEN ONTO THE FLOOR.

MRS. NOWAK, HAVING STEPPED ON SOMETHING UNEXPECTED, LOST HER BALANCE AND PITCHED FORWARD ONTO THE BLADE.
THE HOL-LOW HILT COL-LAPSED, BENDING THE BLADE UP.
FEELING AROUND IN THE DARK, SHE TROD UPON IT.
I SAW THE STRANGE MARK ON THE FLOOR WHEN I VISITED THE SCENE, BUT I DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS AT FIRST.
WHEN I WENT TO SCOTLAND YARD AND WAS ALLOWED TO SEE THE SABER, I REALIZED THAT MARK WAS FROM THE HILT BEING PRESSED INTO THE FLOOR.
.....
LAWKS! THAT'S AMAZIN', MISS.
AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY STRUGGLE, EITHER.
I KNEW SHE NEVER MANAGED TO FIND THE CANDLE, AS THE ONE IN THE ROOM HAD NEVER BEEN LIT.

Bill Berkeley
BUT YESTERDAY, I DISCOVERED THE BURNED FRAGMENTS OF A NOTE IN YOUR RUBBISH HEAP.
AND THEIR FILE OF PROMISSORY NOTES FOR CASH LENT. THE CASH WAS STILL THERE, BUT NOT THE NOTES.
ONLY ONE THING HAD ME PERPLEXED. A MONEY-LENDER'S LIFEBLOOD IS THEIR CASH...
IT WAS A TERRIBLY SMALL SCRAP, AND QUITE BADLY BURNED, SO IT WAS DIFFICULT TO READ.
HOWEVER, I COULD MAKE OUT THE NAME "BILL BERKELEY." THAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR CIRCUS MASTER, IS IT NOT?
THEN, WHEN I VISITED SCOTLAND YARD AND SAW MRS. NOWAK'S LEDGER OF NUMBERS, I SAW IT AGAIN.
BB12503069150000207
BENEATH IT WAS THE NUMBER "125."
125
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT WEE BOOK FULL OF NUMBERS. SOME SORT OF CODE, WEREN'T THEY?
THE YARD FOLK COULDN'T MAKE HEADS NOR TAILS OF IT.


HAVING SEEN THE BURNED NOTE, I KNEW WHAT THOSE NUMBERS WERE THE MOMENT I SAW THEM.
THE TWO LETTERS AT THE BEGINNING ARE THE INITIALS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE LOAN WAS BEING MADE.
THE FIRST THREE NUMERALS IDENTIFY THE SPECIFIC PROMISSORY NOTE SIGNED
THE NUMERALS THAT FOLLOW ARE THE SIGNING DATE IN YEAR-MONTH-DAY FORMAT, AND THE AMOUNT OF THE LOAN.
THE FINAL FOUR NUMERALS ARE THE DATE ON WHICH THE LOAN AND ITS INTEREST COMES DUE.
AS THE PROMISSORY NOTE FOR THE CIRCUS' LOAN, WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN IN MRS. NOWAK'S HOME, WAS NOW HERE...
THAT SUGGESTED TO ME THAT SOMEONE FROM THE CIRCUS HAD STOLEN IT.
THE ONLY WAY INTO HER HOME WAS ACROSS A RIVER AND THROUGH A TINY WINDOW. IN THIS CIRCUS, ONLY ONE PERSON COULD MANAGE THAT.
THAT OLD SKINFLINT INSISTED ON MAKING THE CIRCUS ITSELF COLLATERAL FOR THE LOAN.
IF WE COULDN'T PAY HER BACK, SHE'D TAKE THE LOT OF IT.
WHAT? DID MRS. NOWAK WANT TO BE A CIRCUS MASTER HERSELF?
Loan sharks don't let nothin' escape their grip. Never.
NAY, SHE JUST SAW IT AS GOODS. SELL THE CIRCUS TRAPPINGS FOR CASH...
THEN SELL THE MENFOLK INTO HARD LABOR, AND THE WOMEN TO A BROTHEL.

THIS CIRCUS IS MY HOME. WE ARE ALL ONE BIG FAMILY.
EVEN THE ANIMALS ARE LIKE OUR PETS.
I'D LOSE EVERYTHING I'VE EVER HAD!
I COULDN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF THAT OLD HAG DESTROYING IT OUT OF GREED!
I WAS ORPHANED AS A BABY, SO THIS IS THE ONLY FAMILY I'VE EVER KNOWN.
TO THE POLICE, OF COURSE.
FOR BURG-LARY AND THEFT.
HM? GO WHERE?
AH, WELL... THAT'S ALL UNDONE NOW.
I'LL GO QUIET-LY.

Y-YES. THE PROMIS-SORY NOTES.
MISS?
OH? HAVE YOU STOLEN SOME-THING?
THE NOTES ARE GONE! I BURNED THEM ALL!!
STOP! IT'S CRUEL TO MOCK ME!
DID YOU, NOW? CAN YOU PRODUCE THEM?
WHAT?
WAIT ...
THEN... THAT'S IT? THE WHOLE AFFAIR'S DONE AND OVER WITH?
WE CAN'T BRING A CASE TO COURT WITH NO EVI-DENCE.
THEN THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY THEFT.
I'M JUST ONE YOUNG GIRL, AFTER ALL. I HAVEN'T THE POWER TO ARREST ANYONE.
YES, IT'S FINISHED. I MERELY WANTED TO FIND THE ANSWER TO MY MYSTERY.

TELL ME, MONICA. IS A CIRCUS TRULY THAT DIFFICULT TO MAKE PROFITABLE?
IT CAN BE. THIS YEAR, PARTICULARLY SO.
WE USUALLY WINTER IN THE WARMER SOUTH.
BUT THIS PAST YEAR, WE DIDN'T QUITE MAKE IT IN TIME.
CIRCUS
HEAVY SNOWS DESTROYED OUR TENTS...
AND WE ALREADY HAD SEVERAL PROPS THAT NEEDED TO BE REMADE.
I HAVE AN IDEA, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR IT.
WHAT ...?!
WELL?
PERSONALLY, I THINK IT IS A SPLENDID IDEA. ♡

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO THE SPONSOR OF TODAY'S ATTRACTIONS MARTIN'S!
MARTIN'S HAS A WIDE SELECTION OF GOODS ANY HOME WOULD NEED! CONSIDER MARTIN'S FOR YOUR WEEKEND SHOPPING!!
Martin.C
SO WHAT'S OUR CUT? DO WE GET A TASTE?
BERKELEY CIRCUS IS SELLING OUT EVERY DAY NOW!
THEIR PERFORMANCES ON THAT STAGE HAVE BECOME THE TALK OF THE TOWN.
LOOK! THE SPONSOR THEY ATTRACTED GAVE THEM FUNDING FOR A BRAND NEW STAGE!
LONDON

The Adventure of the Famous Trainer (1)

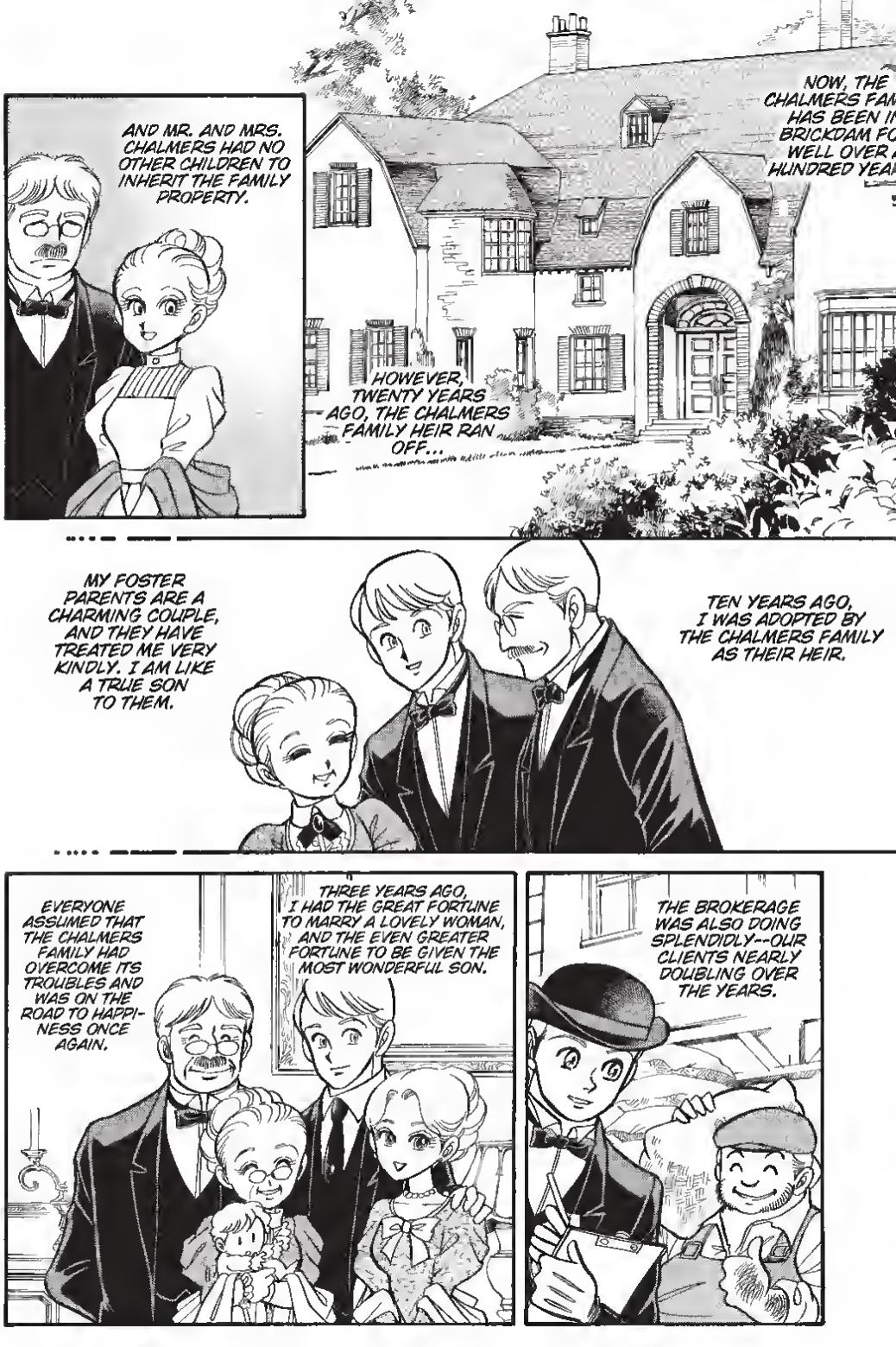
ベイカー街

IT HAS SOME FEATURES OF INTEREST, YES. CASES OF THIS SORT HAVE BECOME QUITE RARE OF LATE.

YOU'VE BEEN QUITE ENGROSSED IN THAT LETTER FOR SOME TIME NOW, HOLMES. IS IT THAT INTRIGUING?

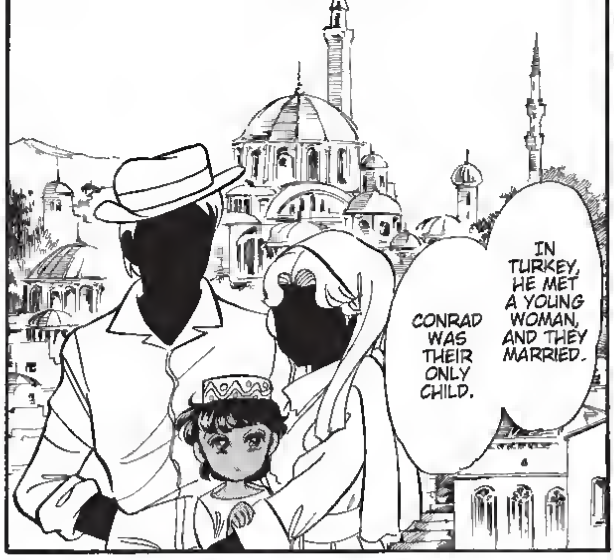
NOT TEN YEARS AGO, THIS WAS ONE OF THE FIVE MOST COMMON TYPES OF CASES WE UNDERTOOK.
WHAT MANNER OF CASE IS IT, THEN?
REFRESH MY MEMORY.
WE WOULD HAVE AT LEAST THREE OR FOUR OF THEM EACH YEAR.
IT WOULD BE QUICKER IF YOU HAD A LOOK FOR YOURSELF.
HERE, READ THIS.
HM?
LET ME SEE ...

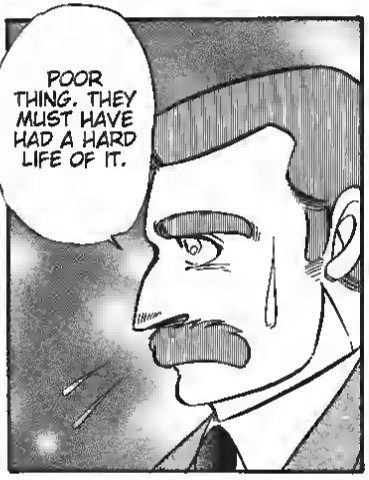
DEAR SHERLOCK HOLMES,
THIS IS MY FIRST OCCASION TO SEND A LETTER TO YOU, GOOD SIR. MY NAME IS GEORGE CHALMERS, AND I HAVE THE HONOR OF MANAGING A PRODUCE BROKERAGE IN BRICKDAM.


AND MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS HAD NO OTHER CHILDREN TO INHERIT THE FAMILY PROPERTY.
NOW, THE CHALMERS FAM HAS BEEN IN BRICKDAM FO WELL OVER A HUNDRED YEA
HOWEVER, TWENTY YEARS AGO, THE CHALMERS FAMILY HEIR RAN OFF...
MY FOSTER PARENTS ARE A CHARMING COUPLE, AND THEY HAVE TREATED ME VERY KINDLY. I AM LIKE A TRUE SON TO THEM.
TEN YEARS AGO, I WAS ADOPTED BY THE CHALMERS FAMILY AS THEIR HEIR.
EVERYONE ASSUMED THAT THE CHALMERS FAMILY HAD OVERCOME ITS TROUBLES AND WAS ON THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS ONCE AGAIN.
THREE YEARS AGO, I HAD THE GREAT FORTUNE TO MARRY A LOVELY WOMAN, AND THE EVEN GREATER FORTUNE TO BE GIVEN THE MOST WONDERFUL SON.
THE BROKERAGE WAS ALSO DOING SPLENDIDLY--OUR CLIENTS NEARLY DOUBLING OVER THE YEARS.

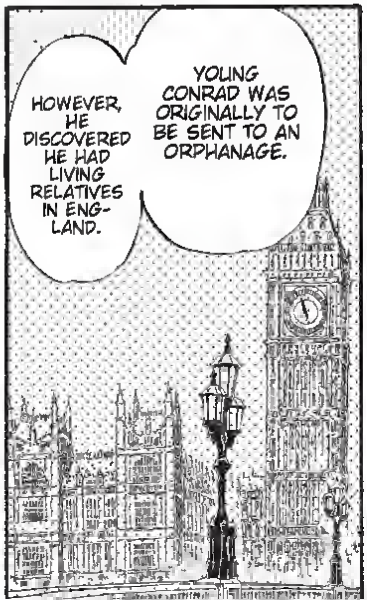
WHEN A CERTAIN YOUNG LAD CAME CALLING.
THAT WAS, OF COURSE, UNTIL ONE DAY NOT LONG AGO...
HE CLAIMS TO BE THE CHILD OF THE CHALMERS' VANISHED SON, ERNEST.
THE BOY NAMED HIMSELF CONRAD CHALMERS, AND GAVE HIS AGE AS 12 YEARS.
THE YOUNG MAN, CONRAD, PROFFERED A GOLDEN POCKET WATCH AND A LOCKET CONTAINING A PHOTOGRAPH OF MR. & MRS. CHALMERS, CLAIMING HE RECEIVED THEM FROM HIS FATHER.
MY, MY! THIS HAS CERTAINLY BECOME QUITE THE CONVOLUTED TALE.
HAVE THEY ANY PROOF THAT THIS BOY WAS TRULY THE CHILD OF THE MISSING HEIR?
KEEP READING.

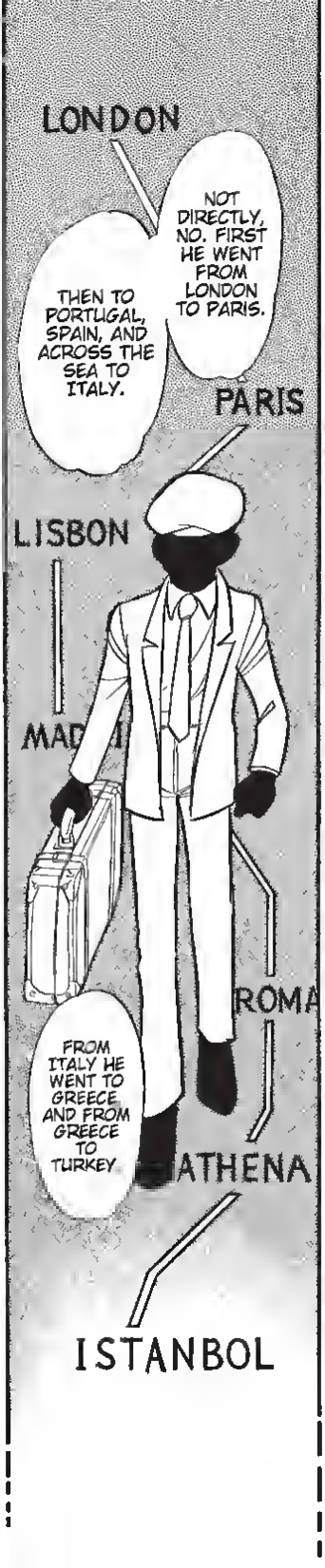
THE POCKET WATCH WAS ONE MR. CHALMERS HAD GIVEN TO ERNEST ON HIS 15TH BIRTHDAY.
THE LOCKET, A GIFT FROM MR. CHALMERS TO HIS WIFE ON THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.
YES. IT APPEARS HE WAS 18.
DOES IT SAY HOW OLD ERNEST WAS WHEN HE RAN AWAY FROM HOME?
HRM. THE POCKET WATCH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ERNEST'S FROM THE BEGINNING, BUT THE LOCKET HE MUST HAVE TAKEN.
THIS SON, IT APPEARS, WAS BORN AND RAISED IN TURKEY.
TUR-KEY?!
ERNEST FLED HIS BRICKDAM HOME FOR TURKEY?
YES. IT WOULD NOT AT ALL BE UNTHINKABLE FOR HIM TO HAVE A CHILD OF 12.
THEN ERNEST, SHOULD HE STILL BE ALIVE, WOULD BE 38 TODAY.
AND THAT WAS TWENTY YEARS AGO, COR-RECT?


IN TURKEY, HE MET A YOUNG WOMAN, AND THEY MARRIED.
CONRAD WAS THEIR ONLY CHILD.


POOR THING. THEY MUST HAVE HAD A HARD LIFE OF IT.

FIVE YEARS AGO, HOWEVER, ERNEST TOOK TERRIBLY ILL AND DIED.
JUST LAST YEAR HIS WIFE FOLLOWED HIM, HAVING WORKED HERSELF INTO AN EARLY GRAVE.


HOWEVER, HE DISCOVERED HE HAD LIVING RELATIVES IN ENG-LAND.
YOUNG CONRAD WAS ORIGINALLY TO BE SENT TO AN ORPHANAGE.


LONDON
NOT DIRECTLY, NO. FIRST HE WENT FROM LONDON TO PARIS.
THEN TO PORTUGAL, SPAIN, AND ACROSS THE SEA TO ITALY.
PARIS
LISBON
MAD
ROMA
FROM ITALY HE WENT TO GREECE AND FROM GREECE TO TURKEY
ATHENA
ISTANBOL

HAVE A LOOK AT THE SECOND HALF OF THE LETTER.
HRM. TO BE HONEST, THIS SEEMS A LITTLE TOO PAT TO BE TRULY BELIEV-ABLE.
AND SO HE CAME HERE.
CONRAD KNEW ALL OF THIS AND MORE.
ALSO, EATING A PARTICULAR TYPE OF FISH WOULD MAKE HIM BREAK OUT IN HIVES.
HE WAS BITTEN BY A DOG AS A CHILD, AND THE MARK REMAINED WITH HIM.
IT SEEMS ERNEST HAD A SCAR ON HIS RIGHT SHOULD-DER.
YES. FACTS THAT ONLY SOMEONE AS CLOSE AS A SON COULD KNOW ABOUT THE FELLOW.
AHH. SO THE BOY KNEW DETAILS ABOUT ERNEST THAT MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS, BEING HIS PARENTS, COULD CONFIRM.

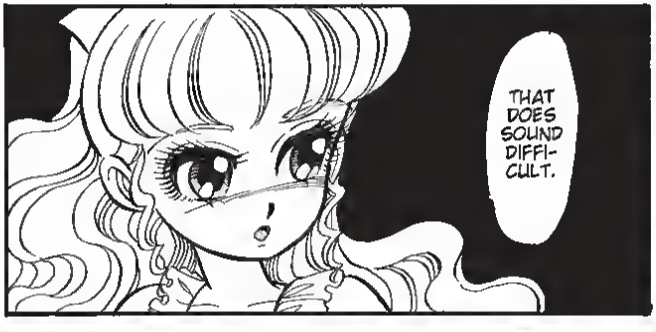
IT APPEARS THAT CONRAD'S STORY HAS SO THOROUGHLY CONVINCED MR. CHALMERS ...
THE LETTER MENTIONS THAT MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS WERE DUBIOUS AT FIRST THEM-SELVES ...
BUT HEARING YOUNG CONRAD'S STORY CONVINCED THEM.
.....
THAT HE HAS DETERMINED TO REWRITE THE FAMILY WILL, LEAVING THEIR ENTIRE FORTUNE TO HIM.
NO, THIS CASE HAS TAKEN A SOMEWHAT GRAVER TURN.
WELL THEN, WHAT COULD THEY BE ASKING OF US? DO THEY WANT US TO CONFIRM WHETHER CONRAD TRULY IS ERNEST'S SON?

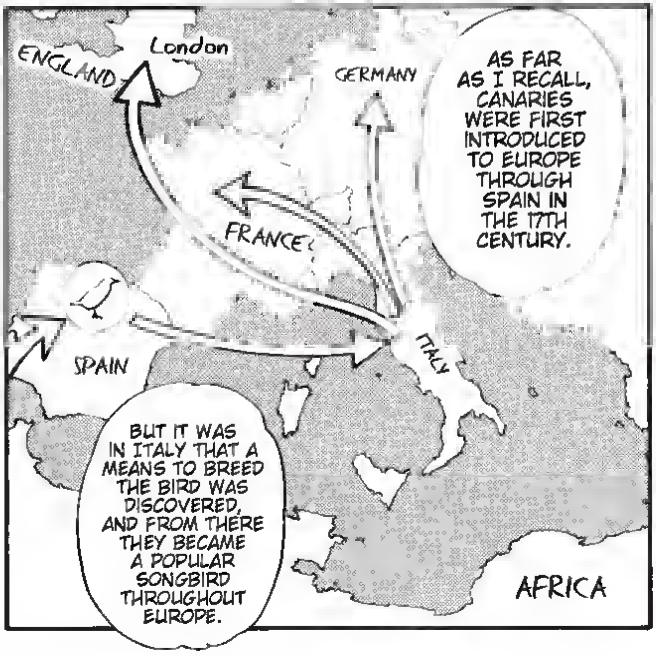
THE ESTATE OF VISCOUNT HARRIET
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIIIRP
OH, HOW BEAUTIFUL!
ITS SONG SOUNDS LIKE THE TINKLING OF AN ANGEL'S BELLS.
BUT IT HAS LESS MEAT ON ITS BONES THAN EVEN A QUAIL.

OH. YES, OF COURSE ...
THEY ARE NOT FOR EATING!!
THIS IS A CANARY! THEY ARE MEANT TO BE ENJOYED FOR THEIR LOVELY SONG!!
CHRISTIE, HOW COULD YOU?!
OH, ISN'T IT JUST? WHEN I HEAR IT SING, IT'S LIKE A DECLARATION OF LOVE TO THE WORLD.
YOU ALWAYS FIND THE BEST THINGS, MISS AMANDA!
WE HAVE A CANARY AS WELL, BUT IT DOES NOT SING AS BEAUTIFULLY AS THIS ONE.
WHAT A SPLENDID BIRD.
SILENCE, YOU BARBARIAN!!
THEY SING TO ME IN LOVELY VOICES, CRYING, "EAT ME! MY FLESH IS DELICIOUS!"
I'D RATHER HEAR THE SOUND OF A GOOSE OR A DUCK.
I CAN'T SAY I FAVOR IT.

CANARIES, HM?
I CANNOT SAY WHY, BUT THOSE CREATURES ARE ALL THE RAGE AMONG MY SET.
CANARIES ARE RENOWNED FOR THEIR SINGING VOICES.
DO YOU LIKE THEM, MISS GRACE?
I WOULD EXPECT THEY ARE THE MOST POPULAR PET IN THE CITY.
THAT IS QUITE A DRAW FOR NOBLE LADIES.
YOU COULD SAY SO, YES.
I WANTED ONE EVER SO MUCH WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL.
I REMEMBER THE DAY A NEIGHBOR BROUGHT ONE HOME.
I WAS POSITIVELY GREEN WITH ENVY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, ANN-MARIE? DO YOU WANT ONE?
WELL, THEY ARE A VERY EXPENSIVE BIRD, MY LADY.
I CANNOT SAY I EVER EVEN SAW ONE WHILE I LIVED IN AMERICA.
I HEAR THEY ARE DIFFICULT TO CARE FOR.

SPAIN
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
AZORES
CANARY
AFRICA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
AS THEIR NAME SUGGESTS, THEY WERE FIRST FOUND ON THE CANARY ISLANDS, AND ON THE NEARBY AZORES ISLANDS.
CANARIES ARE PART OF THE *FRINGILLIDAE* FAMILY OF BIRDS.

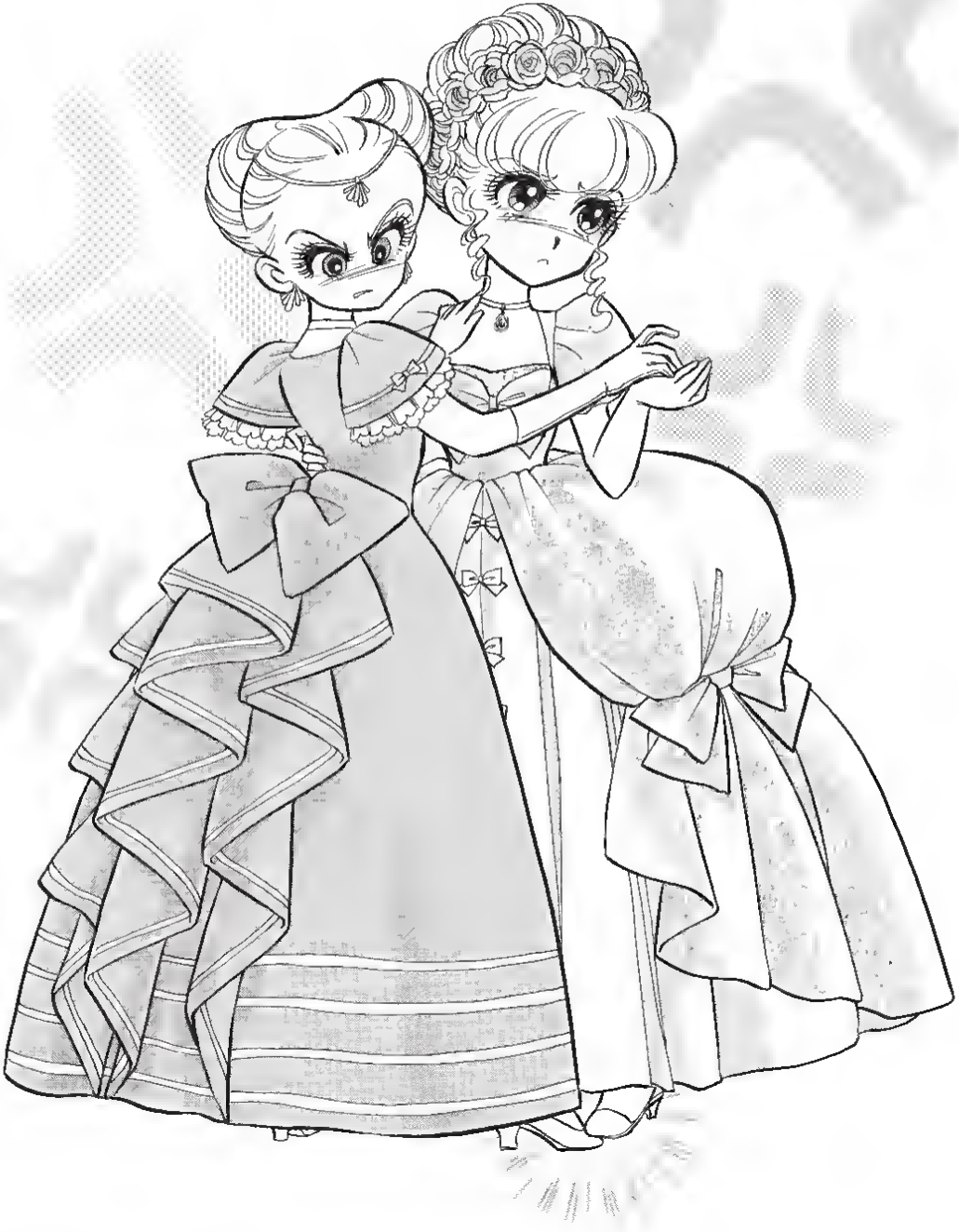

THAT DOES SOUND DIFFICULT.


ENGLAND
London
GERMANY
FRANCE
SPAIN
ITALY
AFRICA
AS FAR AS I RECALL, CANARIES WERE FIRST INTRODUCED TO EUROPE THROUGH SPAIN IN THE 17TH CENTURY.
BUT IT WAS IN ITALY THAT A MEANS TO BREED THE BIRD WAS DISCOVERED, AND FROM THERE THEY BECAME A POPULAR SONGBIRD THROUGHOUT EUROPE.

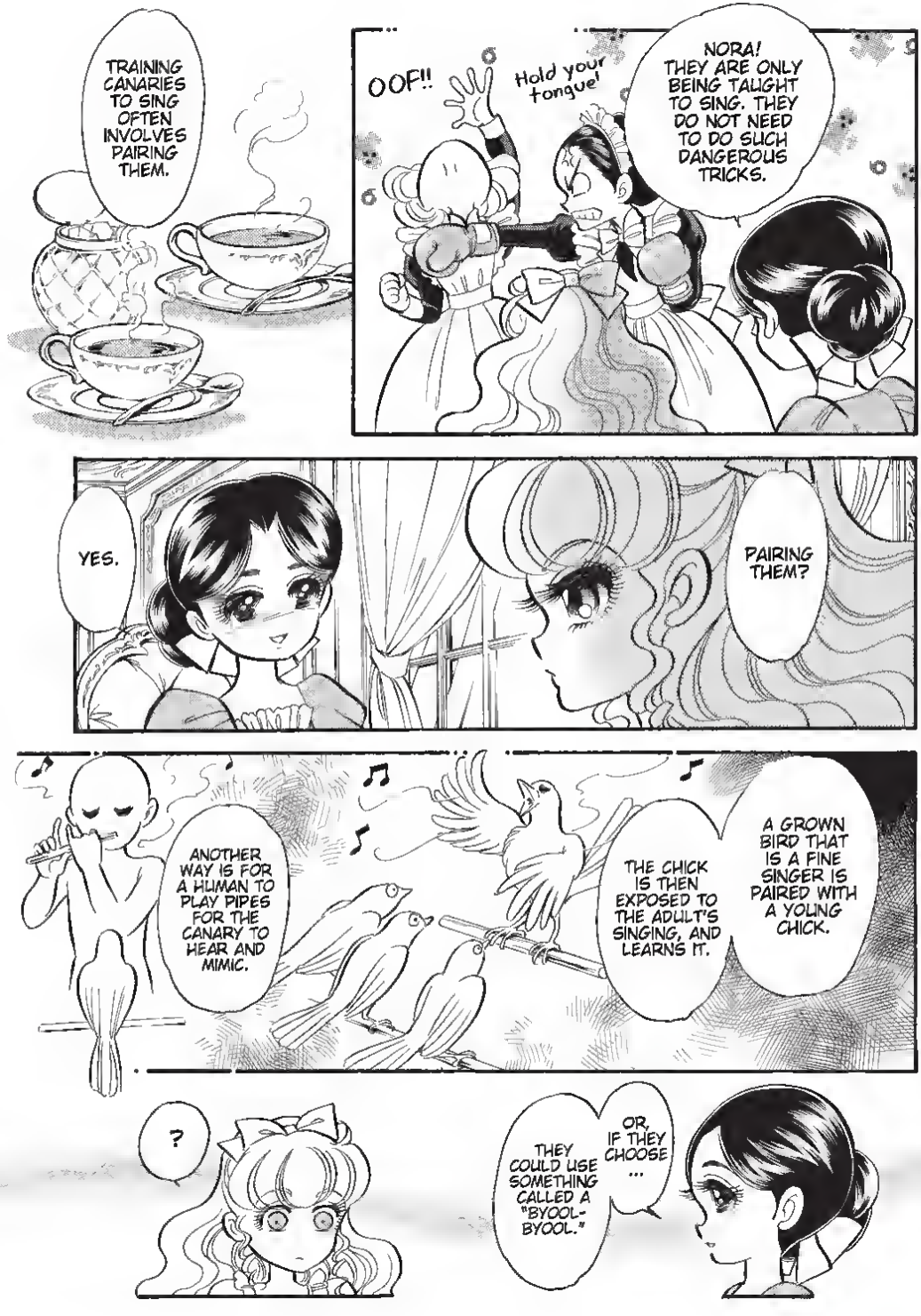
CANARIES ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THE COLD.
LET THE TEMPERATURE SLIP A LITTLE TOO LOW, AND THEY WILL QUICKLY DIE.
THEY ALSO HAVE VERY PARTICULAR NUTRITIONAL NEEDS, AND SO THEY REQUIRE A VERY SPECIFIC DIET.
THEY NEED FRESH GREEN VEGETABLES, ALL YEAR ROUND.

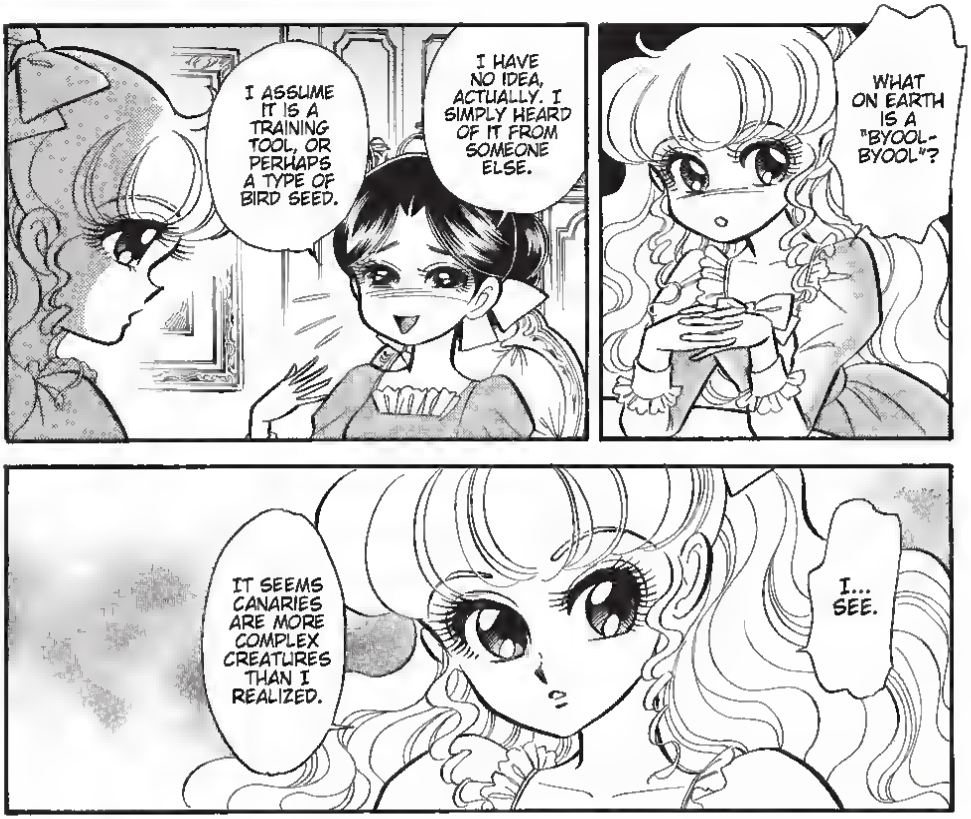
WELL, I DID WANT ONE DREADFULLY WHEN I WAS A GIRL, SO I LEARNED ALL I COULD ABOUT THEM.
MY! YOU CERTAINLY KNOW QUITE A BIT ABOUT THEM, MISS GRACE.
CANARIES ARE SURPRISINGLY LIKE HUMANS IN A WAY.
THEIR VOICES CHANGE WHEN THEY REACH A CERTAIN AGE, AND SOME, WHILE THEY HAVE LOVELY VOICES, HAVE LITTLE SKILL AT SINGING.
WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE?
'COURSE, BIRDS DO ALL THAT PRETTY SINGIN' TO ATTRACT A MATE, AND CANARIES AIN'T NO DIFFERENT.
THAT MEANS THE BEST SINGERS'LL ALL BE BLOKES.
THEY ARE TRAINED TO SING WELL.
AGAIN, LIKE HUMANS, CANARIES HAVE SPECIAL TUTORS.

The Adventure of the Famous Trainer (2)



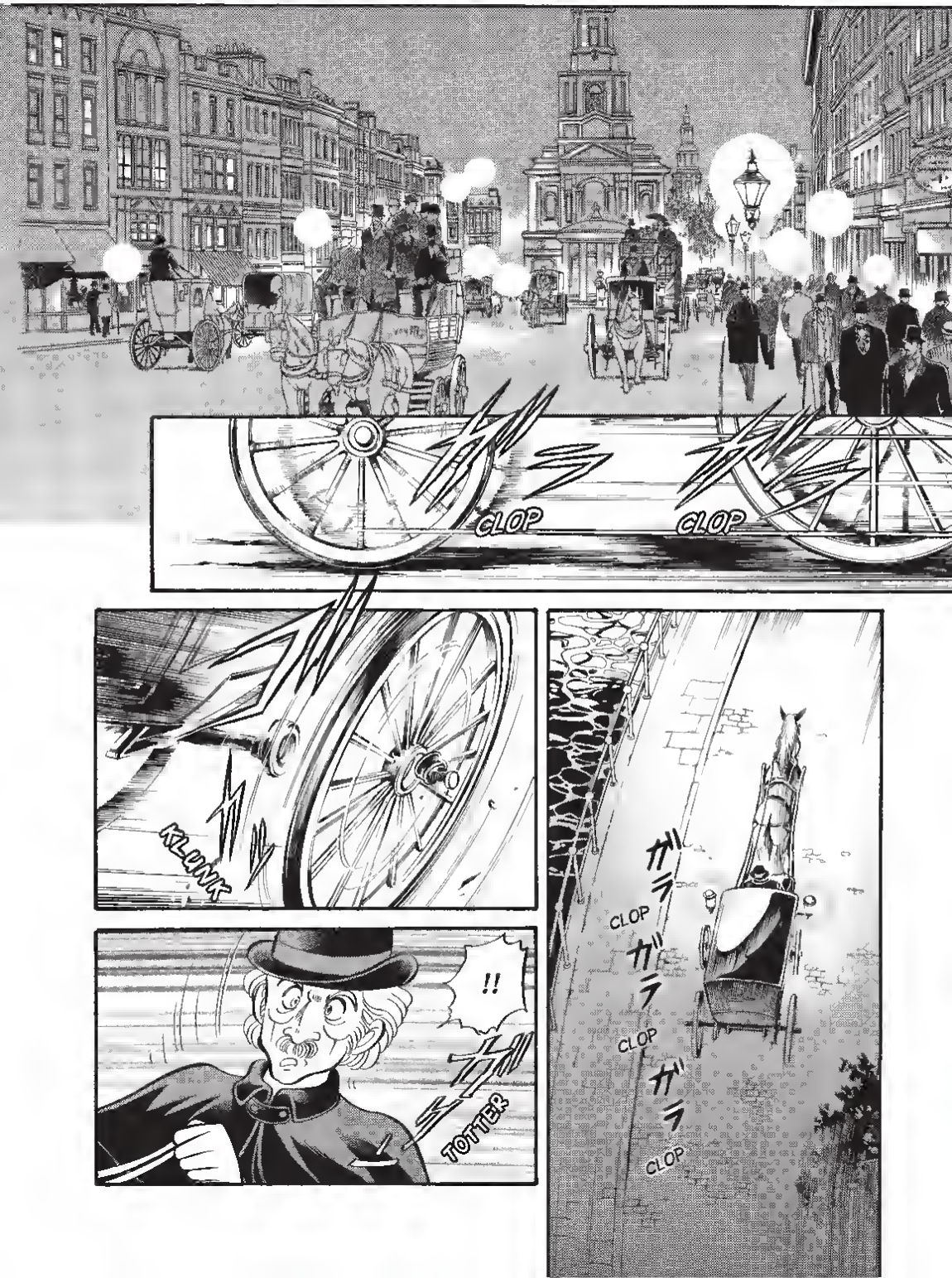
ONE CAN TEACH CANARIES TO SING FOR A LIVING?
DOES IT MAKE GOOD SCRATCH?
I... I THINK IT MAY, IF DONE WELL.
AFTER ALL, A CANARY THAT SINGS PLEASINGLY CAN BE SOLD FOR A VERY HIGH SUM.
BUT THE BIRD WOULD NEED SOME BASE TALENT, I SUPPOSE, OR ELSE IT COULDN'T BE TRAINED.
YOU WOULD NEED...THIS MUCH, JUST TO ACQUIRE THE BIRD. THEN THIS MUCH TO FEED AND HOUSE IT.
OH, BUT TO MAKE UP FOR THE COST OF THE ONES THAT CANNOT EVEN BE TRAINED TO SING WELL, THE BASE SALE PRICE WOULD NEED TO BE...
MISS GRACE ...?
HOW WOULD ONE EVEN GO ABOUT TRAINING A CANARY?
MAYBE THEY MAKE 'EM HOP THROUGH FLAMING HOOPS ...
OR ESCAPE OUT OF AN UNDER-WATER BOX.

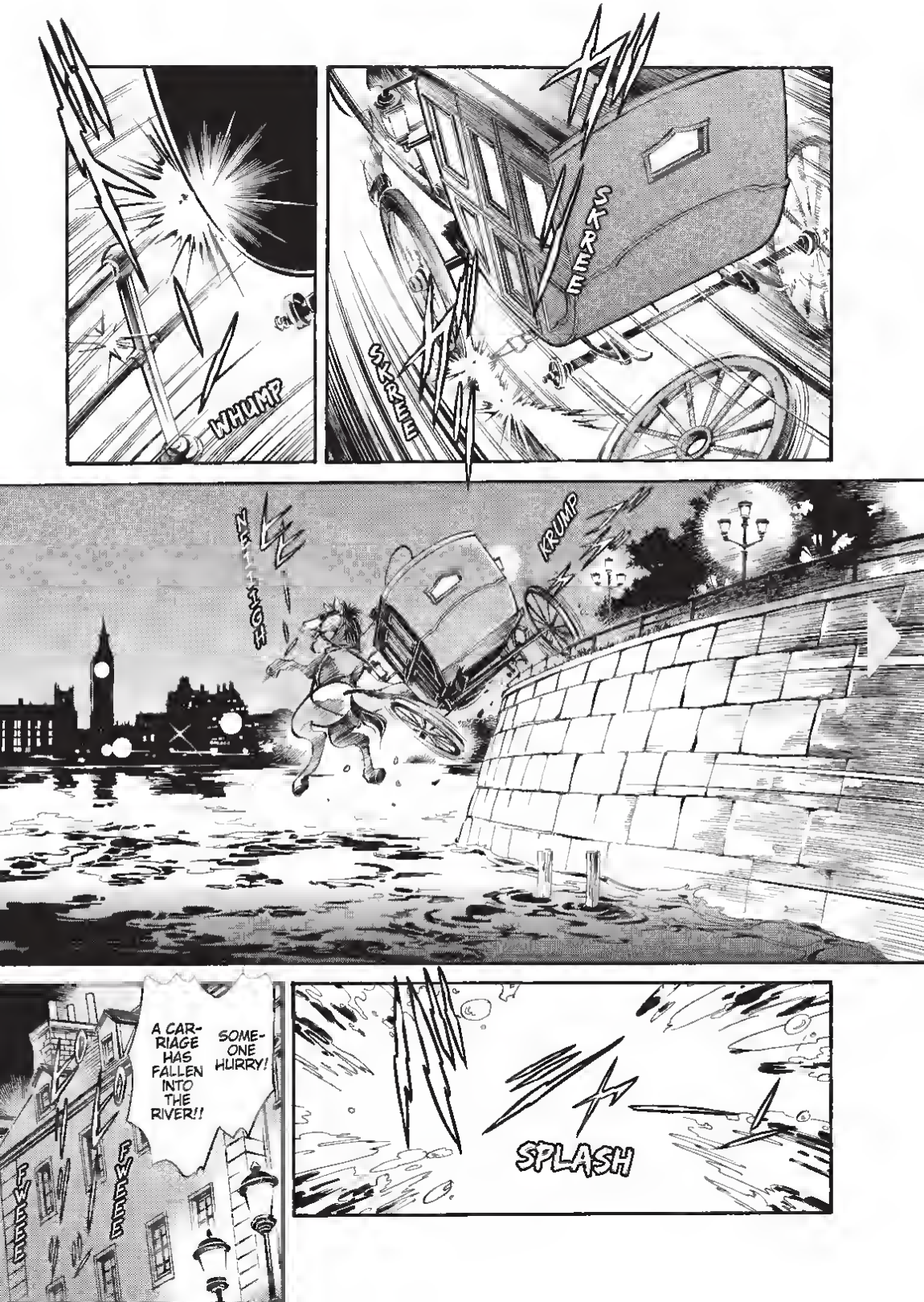

TRAINING CANARIES TO SING OFTEN INVOLVES PAIRING THEM.
OOF!!
Hold your tongue!
NORA! THEY ARE ONLY BEING TAUGHT TO SING. THEY DO NOT NEED TO DO SUCH DANGEROUS TRICKS.
YES.
PAIRING THEM?
ANOTHER WAY IS FOR A HUMAN TO PLAY PIPES FOR THE CANARY TO HEAR AND MIMIC.
THE CHICK IS THEN EXPOSED TO THE ADULT'S SINGING, AND LEARNS IT.
A GROWN BIRD THAT IS A FINE SINGER IS PAIRED WITH A YOUNG CHICK.
?
THEY COULD USE SOMETHING CALLED A "BYOOL-BYOOL."
OR, IF THEY CHOOSE ...


I ASSUME IT IS A TRAINING TOOL, OR PERHAPS A TYPE OF BIRD SEED.
I HAVE NO IDEA, ACTUALLY. I SIMPLY HEARD OF IT FROM SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT ON EARTH IS A "BYOOL-BYOOL"?
IT SEEMS CANARIES ARE MORE COMPLEX CREATURES THAN I REALIZED.
I... SEE.

WELL, HOLMES ...
WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD, THEN?
TOK

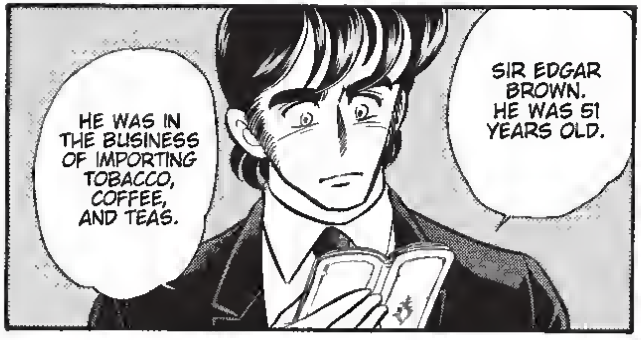
THE CASE, HOLMES. ARE WE GOING TO ACCEPT IT, OR NOT?
EXCEL-LENT QUES-TION, MY GOOD FELLOW.
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
IF WE ARE TO STEP BACK FROM THIS LITTLE MYSTERY, WE MUST DO IT NOW.
TAKE EVEN ONE SMALL STEP FORWARD, AND I THINK WE WILL BE ENSNARED BEYOND OUR ABILITY TO GET FREE.
?
WHICH CAME FIRST, I WONDER.
EVEN ONE STEP?
THE CREA-TURE? THE PERSON ?
OR PER-HAPS IT WAS THE PLACE?


CLOP
CLOP
KLUNK
ガラ
CLOP
ガラ
CLOP
ガラ
CLOP
!!
TOTTER

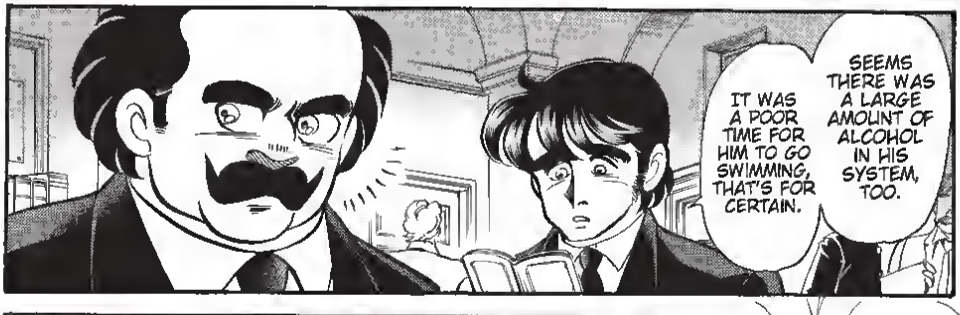

WHUMP
SKREEE
SKRAAAK
KRUMP
NAY-HIGH
SPLASH
SOME-ONE HURRY!
A CAR-RIAGE HAS FALLEN INTO THE RIVER!!
FWEEE
FWEEE
FWEEE

LORD ABOVE, I SWEAR THIS ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I'M THE ONE ON DUTY.
FROM THE MOMENT I SET FOOT IN THE DOOR, ALL THE STRANGEST AND MOST AGGRAVATING CASES CROP UP.
NEITHER CRIME NOR STUPIDITY TAKES A DAY OFF.
NOW, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
SIR, IT LOOKS LIKE A CARRIAGE CAST A REAR WHEEL. AXLE BROKE. DRIVER LOST CONTROL AND THE WHOLE THING WENT OVER INTO THE RIVER.
VINCENT!
GET RID OF THE GAWKERS, WOULD YOU?
YES, INSPECTOR.
WE MANAGED TO HAUL THE DRIVER OUT, BUT WE COULDN'T GET THE PASSENGER.
SO THE DRIVER IS STILL ALIVE, THEN?
IS HE IN ANY SHAPE TO TALK?
THIS WAY, SIR.

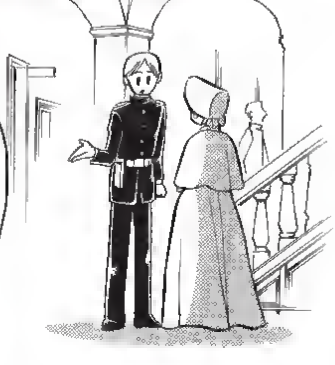
I WAS TAKIN' HIM FROM TOWN TO HIS CHELSEA RESIDENCE, JUST AS I ALWAYS DO.
SIR BROWN WAS MY PASSENGER, CONSTABLES.
"SIR" BROWN? WAS OUR VICTIM NOBILITY?
NO, SIR. HE WAS KNIGHTED ...
BUT NOT OF NOBLE BLOOD.
TRUE.
TOO BAD WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO AFTER THE CARRIAGE OR THE POOR HORSE UNTIL SUNUP.
HAVE WE RECOVERED SIR BROWN'S REMAINS?
YES, SIR. THE BODY'S BEEN TAKEN TO THE PRECINCT FOR AN AUTOPSY.
WELL, I'M SURE THE FELLOW HAD FAMILY WAITING FOR HIM AT HOME.
SOMEONE NEEDS TO GO BREAK THE NEWS TO THEM.


SIR EDGAR BROWN. HE WAS 51 YEARS OLD.
HE WAS IN THE BUSINESS OF IMPORTING TOBACCO, COFFEE, AND TEAS.

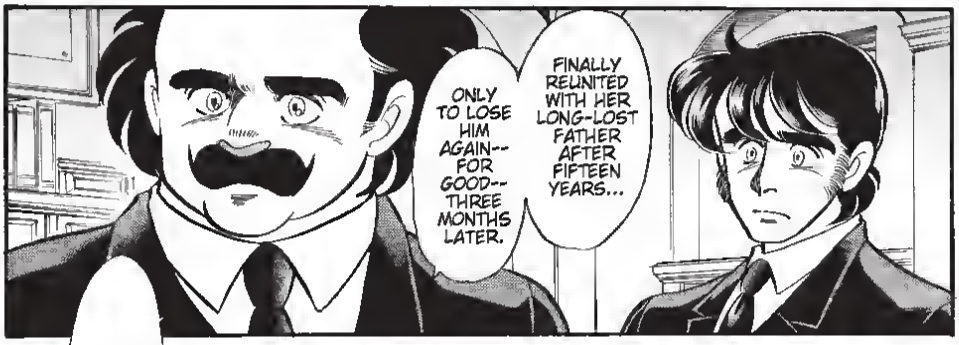
WHAT DID THE AUTOPSY FIND?
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS DROWNING.

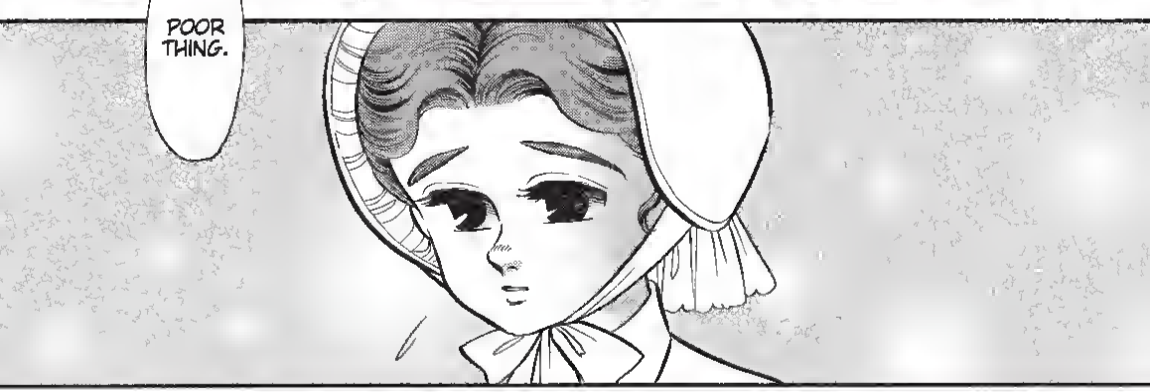

SEEMS THERE WAS A LARGE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL IN HIS SYSTEM, TOO.
IT WAS A POOR TIME FOR HIM TO GO SWIMMING, THAT'S FOR CERTAIN.

AH. THAT LADY IS SIR BROWN'S DAUGHTER.
WHY, SHE'S A YOUNG THING.



SHE HAS QUITE THE INTERESTING STORY. WHEN SHE WAS THREE, HER MOTHER LEFT SIR BROWN, TAKING HER ALONG. THEY VANISHED FOR ALMOST FIFTEEN YEARS.
BUT THEN, JUST THREE MONTHS AGO, THEY RETURNED.


FINALLY REUNITED WITH HER LONG-LOST FATHER AFTER FIFTEEN YEARS...
ONLY TO LOSE HIM AGAIN--FOR GOOD--THREE MONTHS LATER.

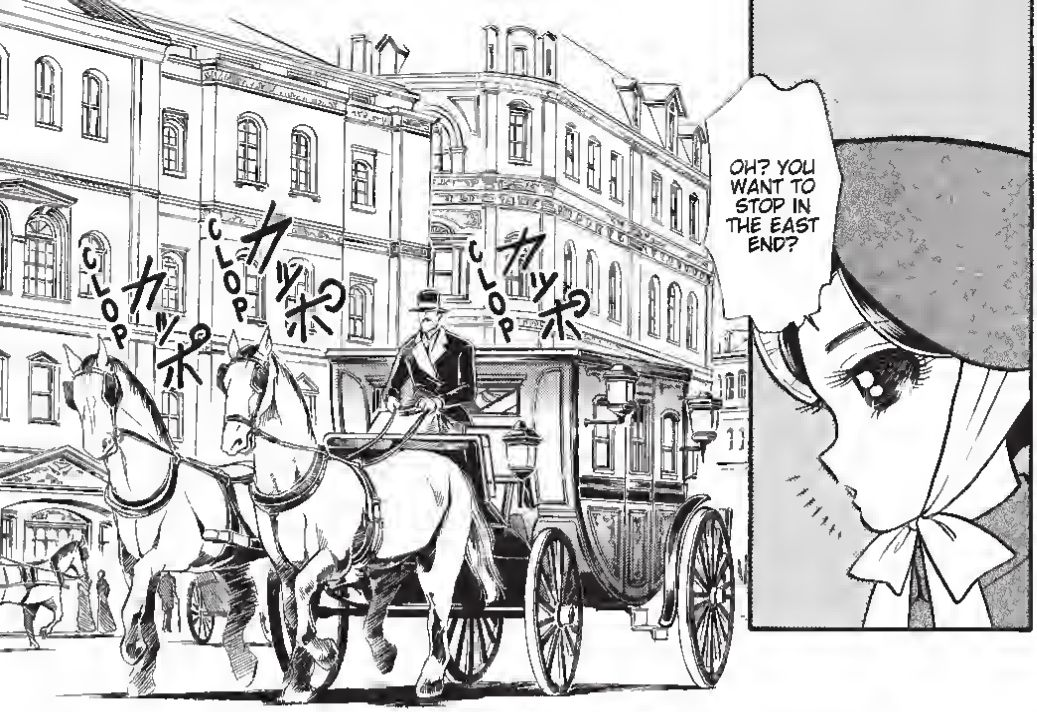

POOR THING.

WELL, SIR, WE STILL HAVE TO HAUL UP THE CARRIAGE AND HAVE A GO AT IT...
BUT I'M THINKING THIS WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
AYE. A TERRIBLE, UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT. BOOK IT.

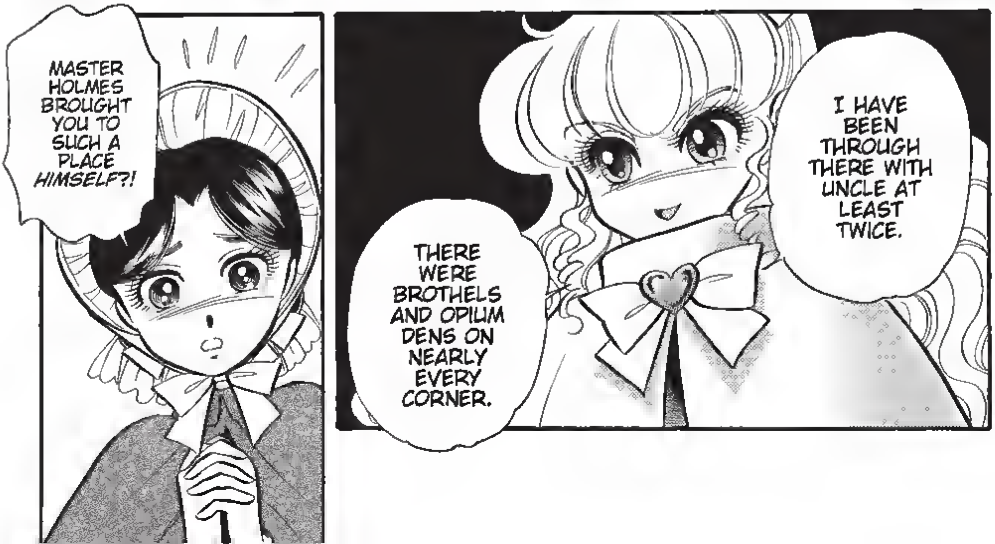
EVERY STORY IN THIS PAPER IS UTTERLY TEDIOUS! EVERY LAST ONE!
FWAP
POLITICAL SCANDALS.
GOSSIP ABOUT THE FAMOUS.
A CARRIAGE GONE OVER INTO THE THAMES... THAT'S ALL! NOT A DIVERTING STORY IN THE LOT!
NOT A SINGLE ONE, MISS?
SO WHAT WOULD TAKE YER FANCY, THEN?
WELL, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY...
IN THIS WORLD, IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO HEAR OF A DOG BITING A MAN.
WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO READ ABOUT ARE THOSE TIMES WHEN A MAN BITES A DOG.
I... SEE.

YOU HAVE DANCE LESSONS THIS AFTERNOON, MY LADY.
I SHALL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU.
I THINK I SHALL VISIT UNCLE'S OFFICE TODAY.
PERHAPS SOME DIVERSION IS AWAITING ME THERE.
MWAH
666
HA HA HA
WHY MUST I BE FOREVER PAIRED WITH THAT...THAT FIEND!
AUGH! I HAVE TO DANCE WITH AMANDA AGAIN TODAY?!
CHRISTE'S MIND'S EYE THEATRE
I HEAR SHE HAS BEEN QUITE BUSY, TAKING CARE OF HER NEW CANARY.
AGAIN WITH THAT BIRD...
YES, AND SHE SPENT SO MUCH TIME WITH IT, SHE DID NOT GET ANY PROPER SLEEP.
WHAT?
AMANDA WILL NOT BE ATTENDING TODAY?
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!

THAT PLACE? OH, DEFI-NITELY!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE BOUGHT IT?
I AM POSITIVE IT MUST HAVE BEEN FROM WILSON'S.
MIND YOU, BEING GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR ANOTHER LIVING BEING SHOULD BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE FOR HER.
AND ONLY THE BEST CANARIES, AT THAT. THEY ARE FAMOUS FOR HAVING ONLY THOSE WITH THE LOVELIEST SONGS.
IT SPECIAL-IZES IN SELLING CANARIES.
YES, IT IS A SHOP IN THE EAST END.
WIL-SON'S?
I SEE...
WILSON'S IN THE EAST END.
CLOP
CLOP


CLOP
カッポ
CLOP
カッポ
CLOP
カッポ
OH? YOU WANT TO STOP IN THE EAST END?

A STOP OR TWO IS NO ISSUE, MY LADY...
BUT THE *EAST END*? I HEAR THAT IS, ERM, NOT THE BEST OF NEIGHBOR-HOODS.
YES, IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE MOST WELL-POLICED OF AREAS.


I HAVE BEEN THROUGH THERE WITH UNCLE AT LEAST TWICE.
THERE WERE BROTHELS AND OPIUM DENS ON NEARLY EVERY CORNER.
MASTER HOLMES BROUGHT YOU TO SUCH A PLACE *HIMSELF*?!

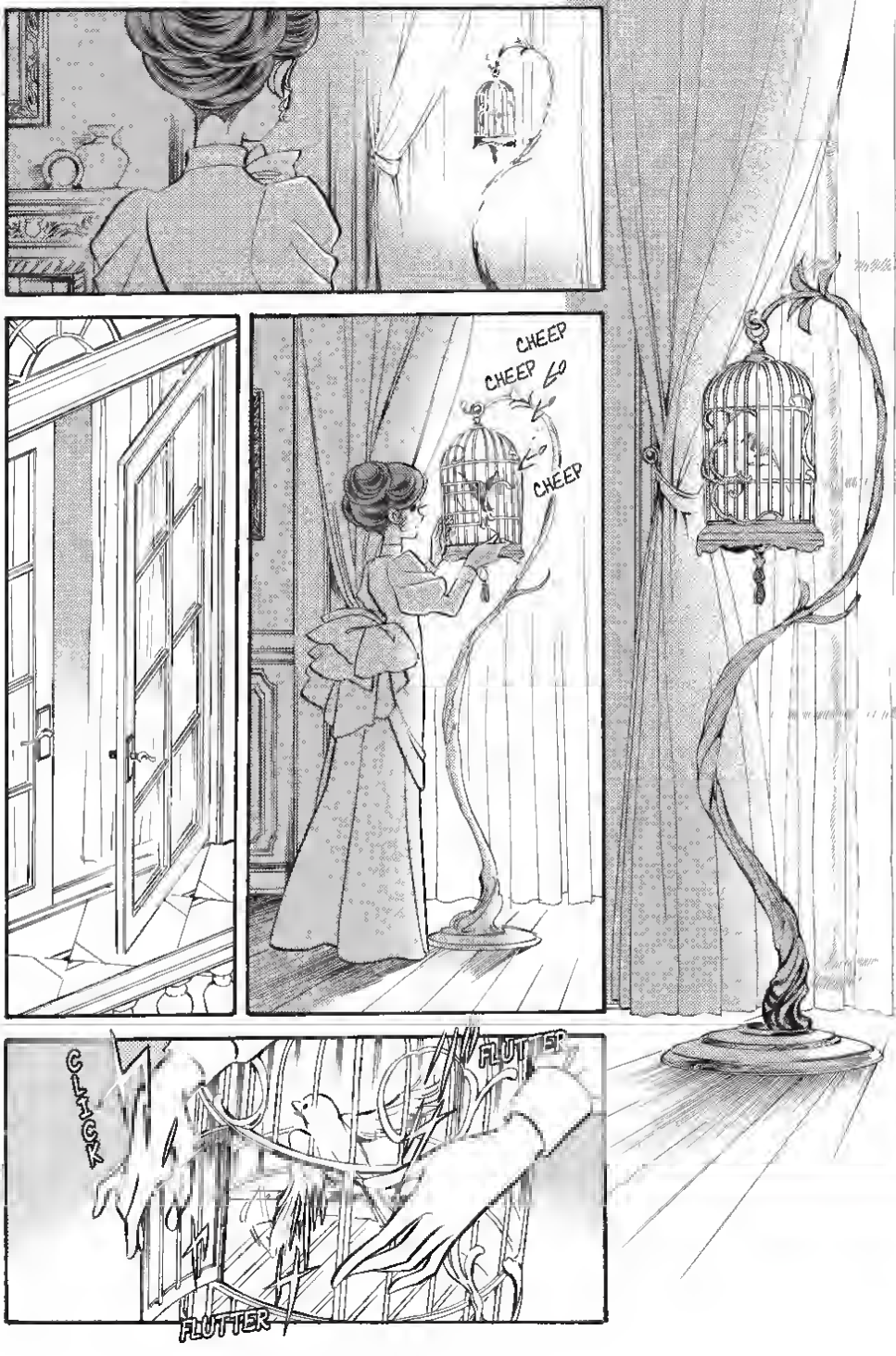
IS THIS IT?
YES, BUT I SEE NO SIGN OF ANY CANARIES.
WILSON
WILS
JINGLE
WILS
WELCOME, LADIES.
HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?

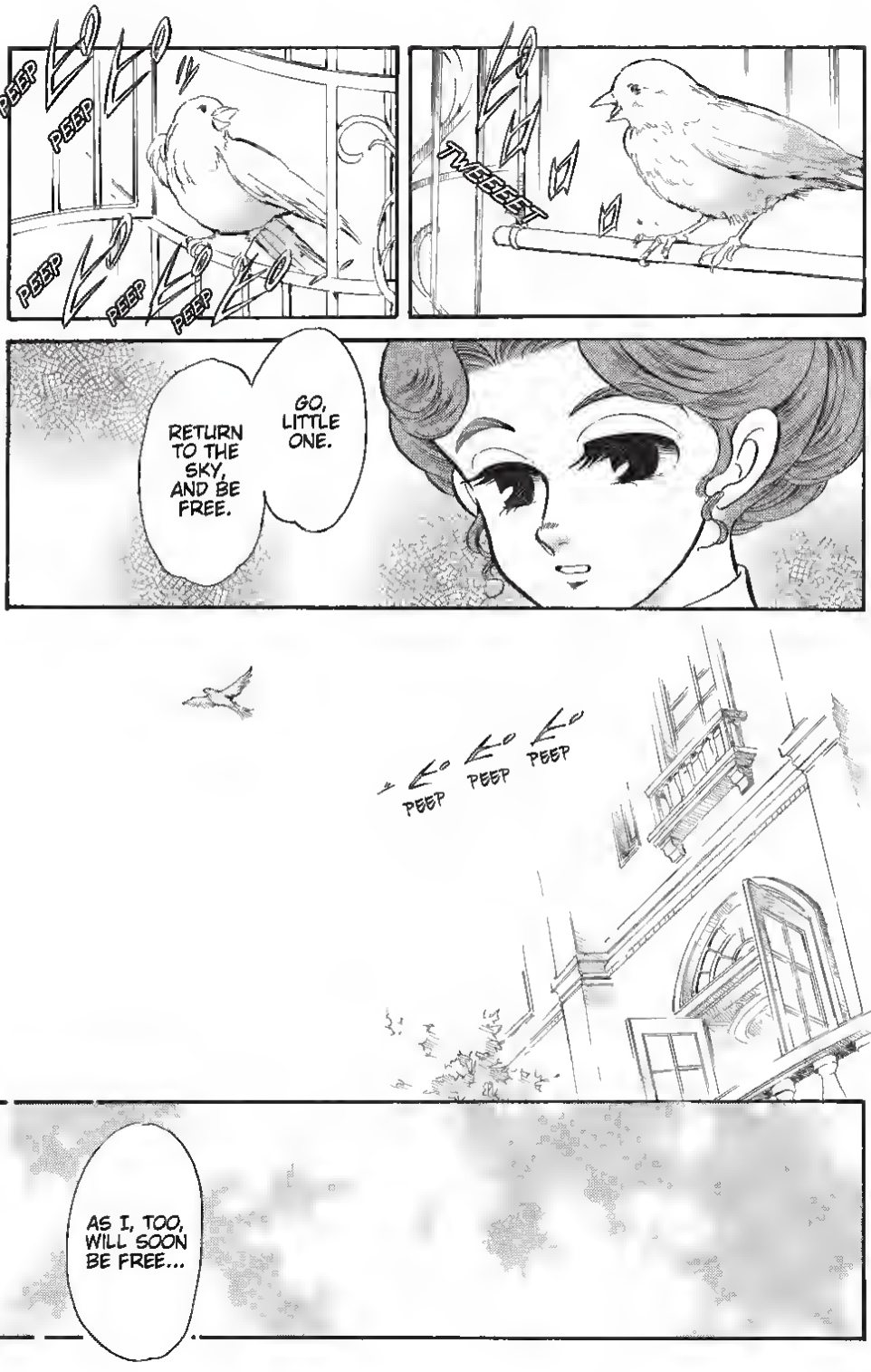
I HEARD THIS WAS A SHOP WHICH SPECIALIZED IN SELLING CANARIES ...
YET I DO NOT SEE A SINGLE BIRD.
NO, THERE ARE NONE IN *THIS* PART OF THE SHOP, M'LADY.
HERE I KEEP ALL THE THINGS FOR RAISING THEM--CAGES, FEED, AND WHATNOT.
I KEEP THE BIRDS THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN ROOM, WHICH IS DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR THEM.
WOULD YOU CARE TO SEE IT?
YES, PLEASE.
MY LADY...

INTER-
ESTING...
A TWO-
LAYER
DOOR.
HERE
WE
ARE.
KREAAAK
IT'S
QUITE
DARK
ALONG
HERE
M'LADIES
PLEASE
MIND
YOUR
STEP.
IN
HERE,
M'LADIES.
PEEP
PEEP
CHIRP
TWEEEET

CHIRP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
TWEEBEET
CHIRP
TWEEBEET

HEH
IT'S SO LOUD ...!
SO MANY BIRDS, ALL SINGING AT ONCE!
PEEP
CHIRP
TWEEBEET
PEEP PEEP PEEP
TWEET
TWEET
TWEE-TWEET
AND HERE ARE THE RARE SPECIES.
OVER THERE ARE THE PRETTIEST ONES.
THOSE HAVE THE MOST COLORFUL FEATHERS.
THESE ARE THE BEST SINGERS.
.....
Otoe


CHEEP
CHEEP
CHEEP
CLICK
FLUTTER
FLUTTER


PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
TWEEET
GO, LITTLE ONE.
RETURN TO THE SKY, AND BE FREE.
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
AS I, TOO, WILL SOON BE FREE...

CHUGGA
CHUGGA
CHUGGA
BHWOOOO
BY JOVE, HOLMES ...
WHATEVER POSSESSED YOU TO MAKE THIS SUDDEN JAUNT TO BRICKDAM?
I LAY THE FAULT FOR THIS ONE AT YOUR FEET, WATSON.
YOU HAVE ALLOWED ME TO TAKE THAT ONE FATEFUL STEP.
WE HAVE NOT EVEN CONTACTED THE CLIENT.

The Adventure of the Famous Trainer (3)

CLOP
CLOP
MY, MY. THIS IS A RATHER LARGE TOWN.
IS IT FAR TO THE CHALMERS' MANOR HOUSE?
ACTUALLY, I THINK WE WILL NOT PAY THE CHALMERS FAMILY A VISIT THIS TIME.
OH?
WHY EVER NOT? WAS THAT NOT THE REASON FOR THIS TRIP?

MR. CHALMERS, I PRESUME?
I AM SHERLOCK HOLMES.
THIS IS MY COMPANION, DR. WATSON.
GOOD DAY, SIRS!
I AM TERRIBLY HONORED THAT YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY.
YES, I AM GEORGE CHALMERS.
I WAS THE ONE WHO SENT YOU THE LETTER.
I'M AFRAID THE PLACE GETS QUITE CROWDED AT THIS HOUR OF THE DAY.
I SUGGEST WE RETIRE TO THE SALON A TAD FARTHER DOWN THE WAY.
SWAN
1820
Pub
SO, WILL YOU UNDERTAKE MY CASE?

IT IS QUITE INTRIGUING, I ADMIT.
HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW THINGS, FIRST.
ANSWER AS HONESTLY AS YOU CAN, IF YOU PLEASE.
THESE QUESTIONS WILL HELP ME TO DETERMINE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THE INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE TURNED.
OF COURSE!
PLEASE, ASK AWAY.
I SHALL TELL YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW.
WELL THEN, MY FIRST QUESTION IS IN REGARDS TO YOUNG CONRAD.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE DONE WITH HIM?
HOW DO YOU MEAN...?
ALLOW ME TO BE PERFECTLY FRANK.
IF THE BOY IS AN IMPOSTOR, YOU WILL WANT HIM TURNED OUT OF THE HOUSE, YES?
IF HE IS NOT...
THEN I PRESUME YOU WANT HIS SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE REDUCED TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. AM I CORRECT?

ON SEVERAL PAST OCCASIONS, I FAILED TO ASK *PRECISELY* THIS QUESTION...
OH, BUT IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE, WATSON.
AND THAT RESULTED IN MY FAILURE TO SATISFACTORILY CLOSE THE CASE.
IN FACT, IT LED TO MORE THAN ONE ARGUMENT.
THAT IS HARDLY A SEEMLY FASHION TO BEGIN OUR DISCUSSION!
HOLMES!
I SEE...
WELL, CONRAD IS A GOOD LAD.
HE IS WELL MANNERED, INTELLIGENT, AND KIND.
BUT, AT TIMES, I CATCH HIM GAZING INTO THE DISTANCE, WITH A FORLORN LOOK ON HIS FACE. THAT CONCERNS ME.

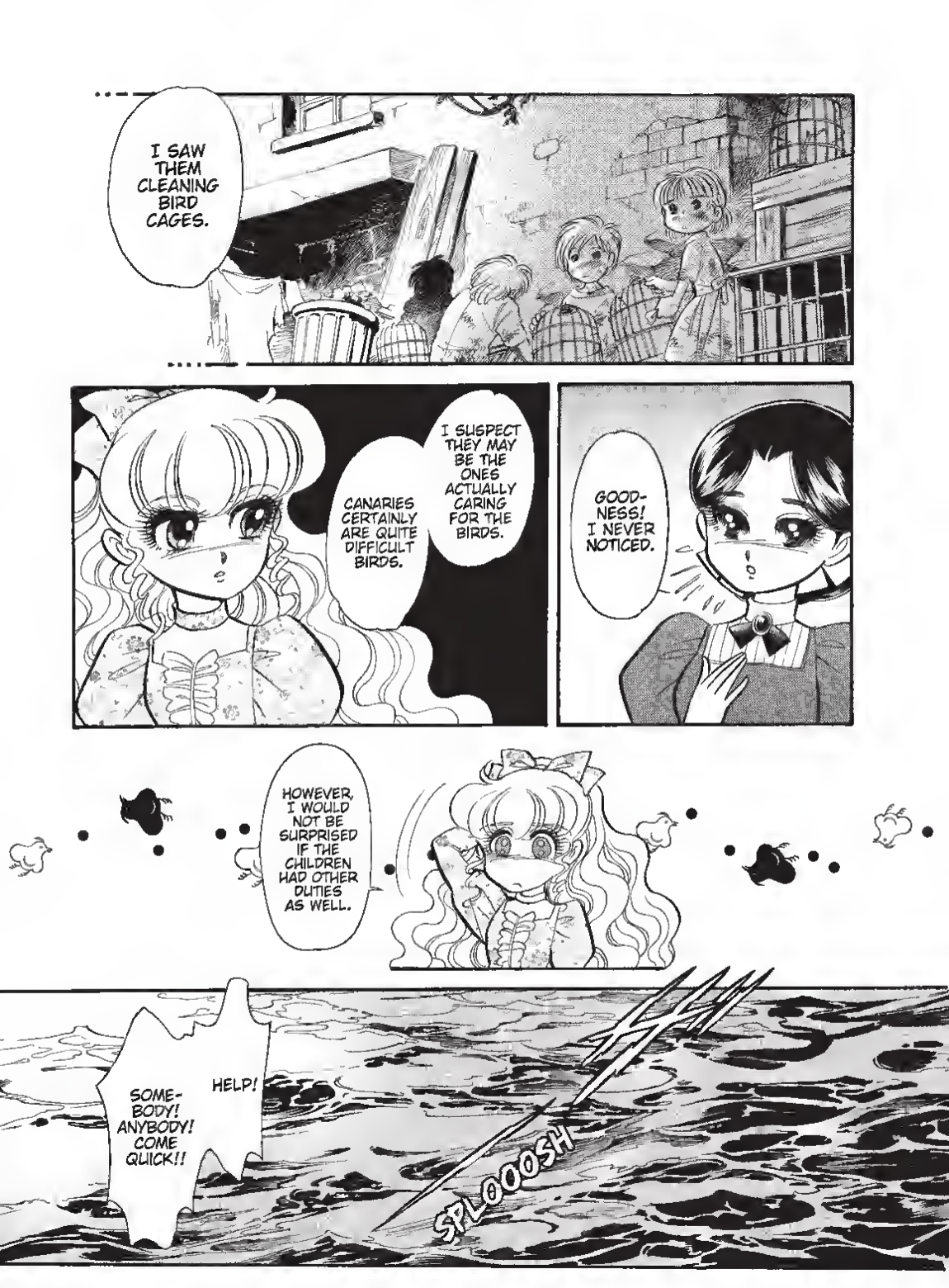
HIS HOMELAND IS TURKEY, IS IT NOT?
THE BOY IS MOST LIKELY SUFFERING FROM SIMPLE HOMESICKNESS. I WOULD EXPECT HE IS NOT QUITE ACCLIMATED TO HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS.
.....
BOTH OF MY STEPPARENTS ARE CONVINCED THAT CONRAD IS TRULY THEIR GRANDSON.
BUT IF THEY PROVE TO BE MISTAKEN ...
YES, THEN EVERYTHING YOUR FAMILY HAS WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD WILL BE STOLEN BY A COMPLETE STRANGER.
WELL, ASSUMING THAT HE IS, IN FACT, AN IMPOSTOR...
IT WOULD BE QUITE A FEAT FOR A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY TO CONCOCT SUCH AN ELABORATE HOAX.
THERE *MUST* BE ANOTHER PLAYER BEHIND HIM, PULLING HIS STRINGS, AS IT WERE.

INDEED. HOWEVER, YOU HAVE YET TO ANSWER MY FIRST QUESTION.
THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT I BELIEVE, SIR!
THAT IS WHY I WOULD LIKE YOU TO INVESTIGATE!
THEN I, AND I AM CERTAIN MY PARENTS AS WELL, WOULD WISH TO RESCUE HIM FROM HIS PREDICAMENT AND PROVIDE FOR HIS FUTURE.
IF... IF CONRAD TRULY IS AN IMPOSTER ...
SWAN
1820
Beer
BUT FIRST, A FEW MORE QUESTIONS...
SMILE
おあっ?
THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR, MR. CHALMERS.
WE SHALL BEGIN THE INVESTIGATION AT ONCE.

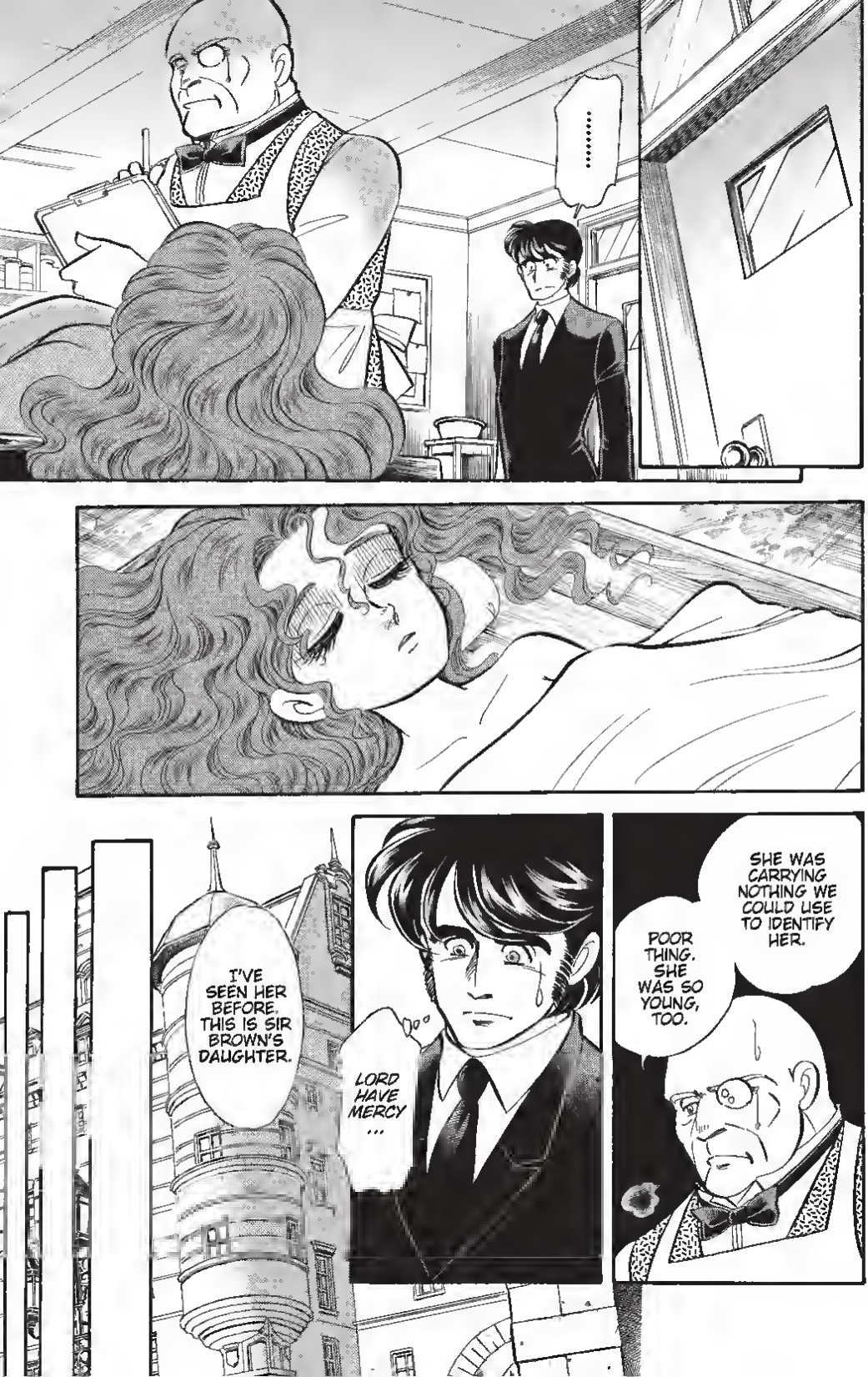
GOOD HEAVENS! YOU WENT TO THE EAST END?
WE STOPPED BY A CANARY-SELLER'S SHOP.
THEY HAD THE MOST INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF THE BIRDS.
Gracious! How harsh.
WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU GO THERE, MY LADY?
YOU COULD CATCH YOUR DEATH IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS!
YES, THE BIRDS CERTAINLY SANG VERY LOUDLY. CONSTANTLY.
THOSE THINGS TWITTER AND CHIRP AT ALL HOURS. YE'LL BE SICK OF THE NOISE IN NO TIME.
REAL-LY?
SO NOW YOU'RE WANTIN' A CANARY TOO, MISS?

WIL-SON'S ...?
WILSON'S, IN THE EAST END. I WAS CURIOUS, SO I DECIDED TO VISIT IT.
ALL THE GIRLS AT DANCE CLASS WERE TALKING ABOUT ONE SHOP IN PAR-TICULAR...
IS THERE ANOTHER FASHION-ABLE SHOP OF THE SAME NAME, THEN?
NAY. NOT AS A PLACE TO GET BIRDS, LEASTWAYS.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF IT, NORA?
KNOWN TO BE HIGH ON INTEREST AND SHORT ON DEAD-LINES, THAT ONE.
HE'S A LOAN SHARK, FOR ONE.
OH ...?
BUT THAT BLOKE HAS ONE BLACK REPUTA-TION.
DUNNO. I RECKON IT JUST MAY BE THE WILSON I'VE HEARD OF.

TO BE TRUTHFUL, THE MAN WE MET THERE DID NOT HAVE A VERY GENTLEMANLY AIR TO HIM.
NORA! HAVE YOU ACTUALLY BEEN *VISITING* THE EAST END?
"THE SCUM OF THE SLUM," FOLKS CALLED HIM.
SOME FOLK EVEN SAID HE HAD ORPHANS HE'D SEND OUT TO PINCH PURSES FOR HIM.
IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE, ONLY MADE BY FOLK CALLED "BEDOUINS." AIN'T FINDIN' THAT NOWHERE ELSE.
I GO FOR THE OILS I USE TO KEEP MY WHIP IN SHAPE.
AND ALL MANNER OF THINGS YOU CAN'T FIND NOWHERE ELSE.
AYE, EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE. THERE'S USEFUL FOLK THERE...
THERE WERE SEVERAL, JUST ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TREE.
YOU KNOW, I *DO* RECALL SEEING CHILDREN AT THAT SHOP.


I SAW THEM CLEANING BIRD CAGES.
I SUSPECT THEY MAY BE THE ONES ACTUALLY CARING FOR THE BIRDS.
CANARIES CERTAINLY ARE QUITE DIFFICULT BIRDS.
GOOD-NESS! I NEVER NOTICED.
HOWEVER, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE CHILDREN HAD OTHER DUTIES AS WELL.
HELP!
SOME-BODY! ANYBODY! COME QUICK!!
SPLOOOSH

SO A WOMAN'S CORPSE WASHED UP ON THE BANKS OF THE THAMES?
YES, DETECTIVE.
HAVE WE GOT AN IDENTITY YET?
NO, SIR. SHE WAS A YOUNG THING, THOUGH.
HOW ABOUT THE AUTOPSY? THAT DONE YET?
A BODY!
THERE'S A WOMAN'S BODY FLOATING IN THE RIVER!!


.....
SHE WAS CARRYING NOTHING WE COULD USE TO IDENTIFY HER.
POOR THING. SHE WAS SO YOUNG, TOO.
LORD HAVE MERCY ...
I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE. THIS IS SIR BROWN'S DAUGHTER.

NOW, IN REGARDS TO THE MISSING SON, ERNEST...
DID YOUR STEP-FATHER EVER SPEAK ABOUT WHY HE MIGHT HAVE RUN OFF?
FATHER HAS ALWAYS BEEN TERRIBLY RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OF ERNEST.
IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT HE TOLD ME A LITTLE OF THAT STORY.
IT SEEMS THAT ERNEST WAS A VERY AVID BREEDER OF CANARIES.
A BREEDER OF CANARIES?
YES. BRICKDAM HAS BEEN A BIRD-FANCIER'S TOWN FOR GENERATIONS. MANY OLD FAMILIES HERE OWN PET BIRDS.
THE CARE AND BREEDING OF CANARIES HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY POPULAR.

ERNEST HAD QUITE THE KNACK FOR IT.
HE HAD A BIRD-HOUSE BUILT OUT BACK...
AND EVEN EXPERIMENTED WITH BREEDING NEW VARIETIES OF THE CREATURE.
HE EVENTUALLY DECIDED HE WANTED TO BREED PROFESSIONALLY, RATHER THAN INHERIT THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
HE AND FATHER ARGUED ABOUT THAT FIERCELY.
I SEE...
AND WHEN HE FAILED TO GET HIS FATHER'S APPROVAL, HE RAN AWAY.
WELL! IF MY SOLE HEIR WAS DETERMINED TO GIVE UP THE FAMILY BUSINESS IN FAVOR OF A DAFT PROFESSION LIKE BIRD-BREEDING...
I BELIEVE THAT I, TOO, WOULD BE MORE THAN A LITTLE CROSS.
ONE LAST QUESTION ...

DID YOUNG CONRAD COME ALL THE WAY TO ENGLAND FROM TURKEY BY HIMSELF?
THAT IS A VERY LONG JOURNEY FOR A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY TO MAKE ALONE.
NO, A GENTLEMAN WAS KIND ENOUGH TO ACCOMPANY HIM.
NOW, CONRAD SAYS HE LEARNED ENGLISH FROM HIS FATHER...
SO HE SPEAKS QUITE NICELY, THOUGH HE DOES HAVE AN ACCENT.
THE GENTLEMAN WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM HELPED HIM IN OTHER WAYS.
DO YOU KNOW THIS FELLOW'S NAME?
I BELIEVE CONRAD MENTIONED IT.
IT WAS WILSON, OR WILLIAMS, OR SOME SUCH.
WILSON...?

YES, YOU HAVE. OH, ONE LAST THING. YOU MENTIONED AN ACCENT. CAN YOU DESCRIBE IT?
SWAN
1820
WELL THEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, MR. CHALMERS.
I HOPE I WAS ABLE TO BE OF SOME SMALL HELP.
IT IS QUITE STRANGE.
HE TENDS TO DROP THE H IN FRONT OF WORDS LIKE "HAVE," AND HIS A'S ARE ELONGATED. "NAME" IS "NAYEM," FOR EXAMPLE.
I WOULD IMAGINE THIS IS DUE TO HIS FIRST LANGUAGE BEING TURKISH.
I AM SURE HIS PRONUNCI-ATION WILL CORRECT ITSELF IN TIME.
IT SHOULD NOT BE A LARGE PROBLEM.
PLEASE CONTACT ME AT ONCE IF YOU SEE ANY ODD CHANGES IN YOUNG CONRAD.
OF COURSE
THANK YOU.

YES?
OH! I NEARLY FORGOT.
AN ODD THING HAPPENED A FEW DAYS AGO.
CONRAD AND I WERE TAKING A STROLL TOGETHER.
"BYOOL-BYOOL" ...
.....
WHAT ON EARTH IS A "BYOOL-BYOOL"?
I COULDN'T TELL YOU, I'M AFRAID.
I HAVE NO IDEA, MYSELF.

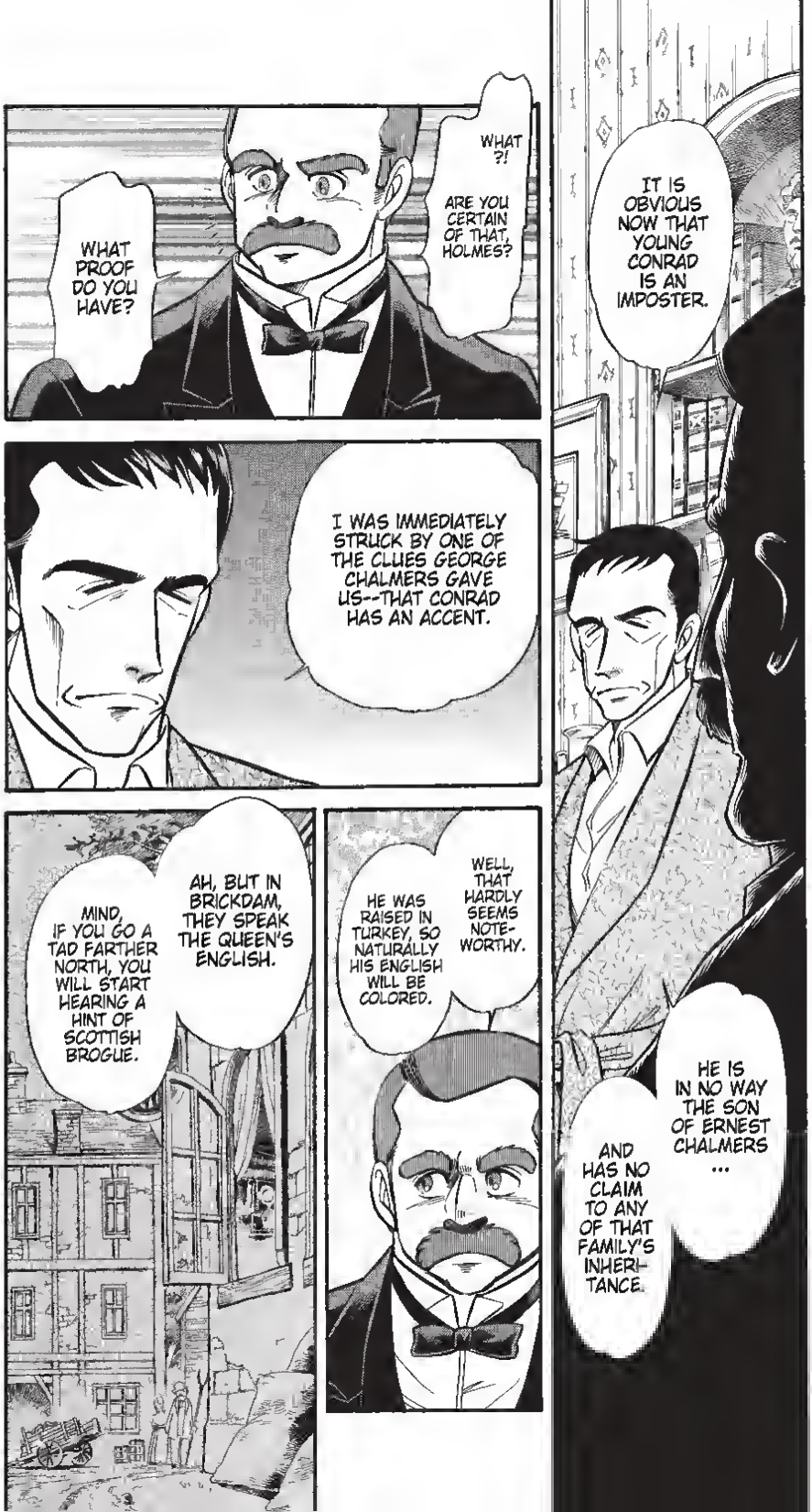
IT SEEMS THE NEXT LONDON-BOUND TRAIN WILL BE ARRIVING IN HALF AN HOUR.
OH, GOOD! WE CAN BE HOME BEFORE DARK, THEN.
.....
I STILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT ERNEST FLED A GOOD HOME TO BREED SONG-BIRDS.
TO EACH HIS OWN, WATSON. TO EACH HIS OWN.

DID YOU DISCOVER ANYTHING OF IMPORT?
I SUPPOSE THAT MAY BE SO. NOW, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE DECIDED TO BEGIN YOUR INVESTIGATION AFTER ALL.
SMIRK
YES INDEED.
YOUNG CHALMERS HAS GIVEN ME SOME VERY INTRIGUING INFORMATION.
.....
HOW NOW?
HAS HE GOT IT SOLVED ALREADY?

I SEE. HOW *INTEREST-ING.*
HAVE YOU DIS-COVERED SOME-THING?
YES. I HAVE FOUND OUR "BYOOL-BYOOL." IT IS A BIRD.
REALLY?
I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A BIRD.
OH, BUT YOU HAVE. IN ENGLISH, IT IS KNOWN AS THE NIGHTIN-GALE.
HOWEVER, IN *TURKISH* IT IS CALLED A "BÜL-BÜL."

AND HERE IS THE MOST INTERESTING PART--IT IS OFTEN USED TO TRAIN CANARIES IN TURKEY.
IT IS A MEMBER OF THE *MUSCICAPIDAE* FAMILY, BUT UNLIKE MOST OF ITS RELATIONS, IT HAS A LOVELY SINGING VOICE.
A MIGRATORY BIRD, IT CAN BE FOUND EVERYWHERE FROM NORTHERN AFRICA TO EUROPE...
ALL THE WAY TO CENTRAL ASIA.
SCRAP BOOK
IT SEEMS IT WAS NOT AIMLESS WANDERING THAT BROUGHT ERNEST TO TURKEY.
YES.
THEN ...
IN-DEED ?!
SCRAP BOOK
WE HAVE CROSSED THE RUBICON, AND THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.
AND THERE YOU HAVE IT. THE SECOND, DEFINITIVE STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN.

The Adventure of the Famous Trainer (4)

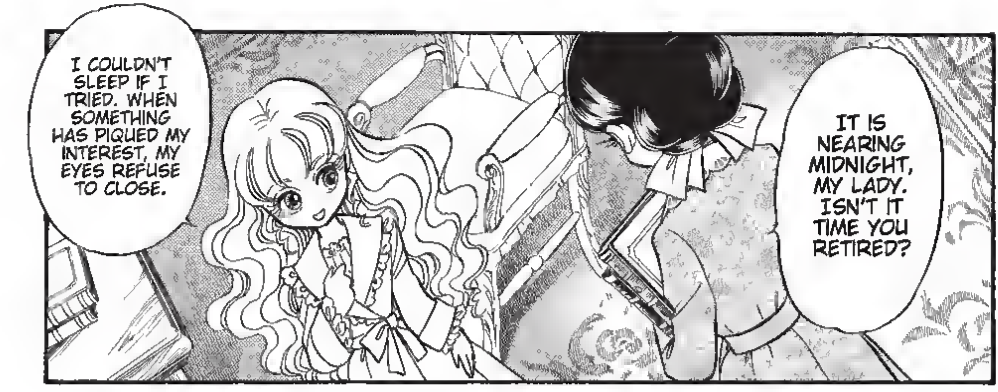

IT IS OBVIOUS NOW THAT YOUNG CONRAD IS AN IMPOSTER.
HE IS IN NO WAY THE SON OF ERNEST CHALMERS ...
AND HAS NO CLAIM TO ANY OF THAT FAMILY'S INHERI-TANCE.
WHAT ?!
ARE YOU CERTAIN OF THAT, HOLMES?
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?
I WAS IMMEDIATELY STRUCK BY ONE OF THE CLUES GEORGE CHALMERS GAVE US--THAT CONRAD HAS AN ACCENT.
WELL, THAT HARDLY SEEMS NOTE-WORTHY.
HE WAS RAISED IN TURKEY, SO NATURALLY HIS ENGLISH WILL BE COLORED.
AH, BUT IN BRICKDAM, THEY SPEAK THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH.
MIND, IF YOU GO A TAD FARTHER NORTH, YOU WILL START HEARING A HINT OF SCOTTISH BROGUE.

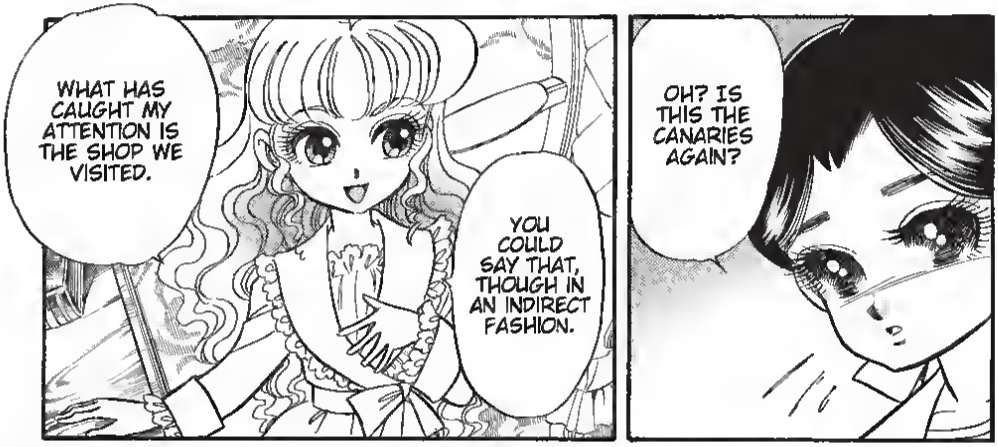
ERNEST, THOUGH HE DIED IN TURKEY, WAS BORN AND RAISED IN BRICKDAM.
HE WOULD HAVE SPOKEN UNACCENTED ENGLISH.
THAT MAKES SENSE, YES.
NOW, GEORGE CHALMERS SAID CONRAD SPOKE ACCENTED ENGLISH.
HE DROPS HIS H'S AND PRONOUNCES HIS A'S MORE LIKE 'AYE,' SO "NAME" BECOMES "NAYEM."
I'M AFRAID I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE GETTING AT, HOLMES. ENGLISH IS CONRAD'S SECOND LANGUAGE. OF COURSE HE WILL HAVE AN ACCENT.
OH COME, WATSON! YOU ARE SMARTER THAN THIS.
THAT IS NOT A FOREIGN ACCENT. IT IS AN ENGLISH ACCENT. ONE SPOKEN RIGHT HERE IN LONDON'S OWN EAST END.
IT'S COCKNEY.
THE CHALMERSES DID NOT RECOGNIZE IT BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED THE BOY TO BE FOREIGN, AND SO THEY ACCEPTED HIS ACCENT AS SUCH.

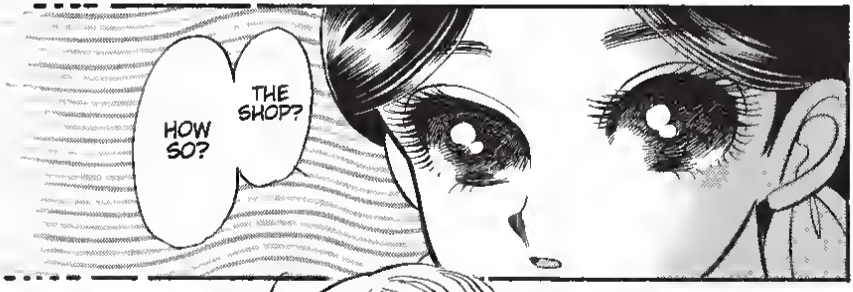
BY JOVE, YOU'RE RIGHT! HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED THAT?!
SO THEN, YOUNG CONRAD *ISN'T* FROM TURKEY ...?
ACCORDING TO CONRAD'S STORY, ERNEST WAS THE ONE TO TEACH HIM ENGLISH.
TURKISH OR NOT, IT IS *HIGHLY IMPROBABLE* THAT A BOY WOULD LEARN COCKNEY FROM A SPEAKER OF THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH.
THE ONE WHO SUPPOSEDLY ESCORTED CONRAD HERE FROM TURKEY...
HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE CHAP?
THE CULPRIT THEN IS THE "KIND GENTLE-MAN" GEORGE SPOKE OF. THIS WILSON FELLOW.
I KNOW OF A WILSON, YES. BUT IF IT IS INDEED HIM...

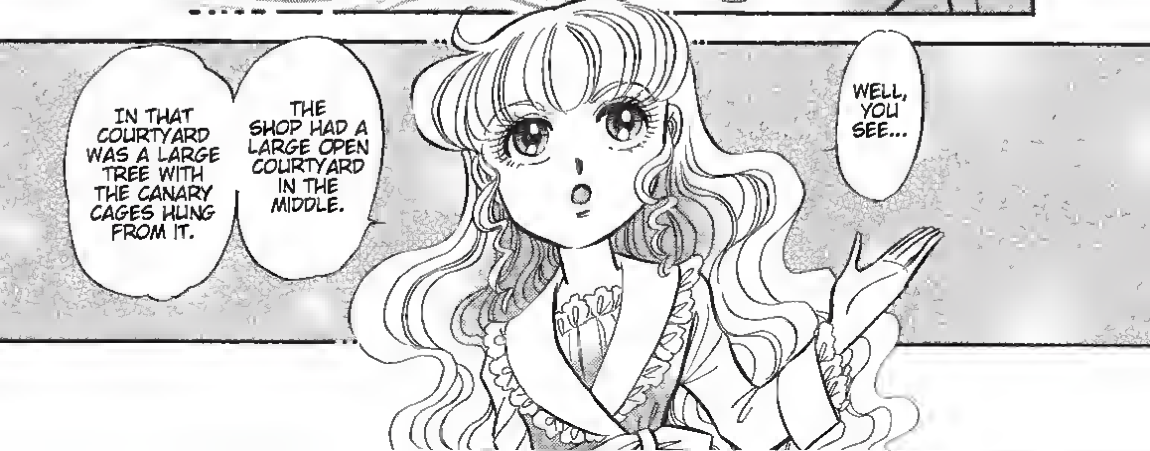
THEN THIS CASE MAY RUN FAR DEEPER THAN WE ORIGINALLY THOUGHT.
REALLY? HOW SO?
WILSON IS A CRIMINAL. OF THAT, THERE IS NO DOUBT. BUT HE IS A SHREWD ONE.
HE LEAVES NO EVIDENCE OF HIS MISDEEDS.
THUS, HE ESCAPES PROSECUTION.
HOW DOES HE MANAGE THAT?
YOU SEE, HE USES CAT'S-PAWS, ALL OF WHOM HE HYPNOTIZES.

MY LADY.
I'M SORRY. I WAS NOT AWARE ANYONE WAS USING THE LIBRARY.
NO MATTER. I WAS SIMPLY DOING A LITTLE RE-SEARCH.


I COULDN'T SLEEP IF I TRIED. WHEN SOMETHING HAS PIQUED MY INTEREST, MY EYES REFUSE TO CLOSE.
IT IS NEARING MIDNIGHT, MY LADY. ISN'T IT TIME YOU RETIRED?


WHAT HAS CAUGHT MY ATTENTION IS THE SHOP WE VISITED.
YOU COULD SAY THAT, THOUGH IN AN INDIRECT FASHION.
OH? IS THIS THE CANARIES AGAIN?

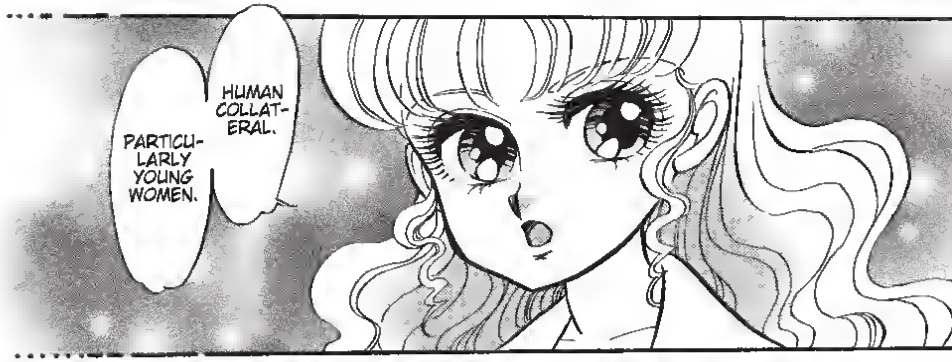

HOW SO?
THE SHOP?

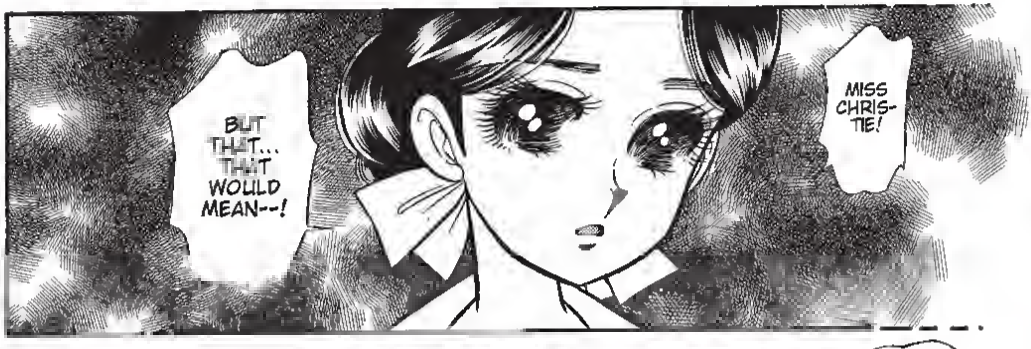

IN THAT COURTYARD WAS A LARGE TREE WITH THE CANARY CAGES HUNG FROM IT.
THE SHOP HAD A LARGE OPEN COURTYARD IN THE MIDDLE.
WELL, YOU SEE...

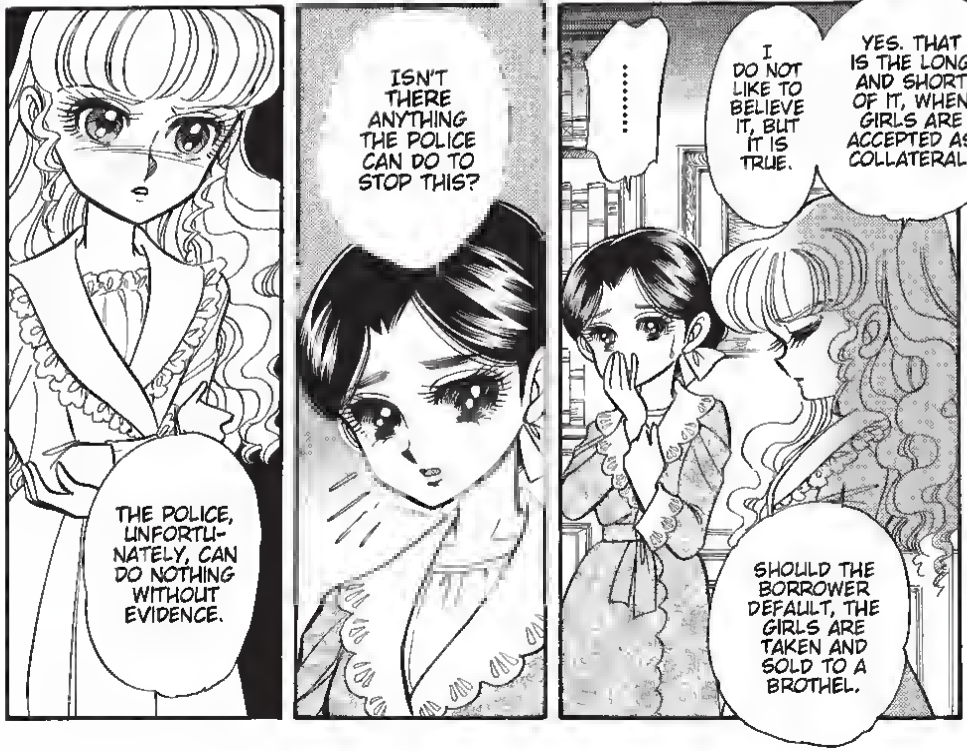
YES. IT CALLED TO MIND THE CRYSTAL PALACE* ITSELF.
FURTHER-MORE, THE COURTYARD WAS ROOFED ENTIRELY IN GLASS.
IT WAS AS IF THE WHOLE THING HAD BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A GREENHOUSE.
PRECISELY. THAT MUST HAVE COST A *PRODIGIOUS* SUM OF MONEY TO BUILD.
AND I HAVE LEARNED THAT MR. WILSON OWNS THAT ENTIRE BUILDING OUTRIGHT. HE PAYS NEITHER MORTGAGE NOR RENT.
HE IS LIKELY, AS NORA SAID, A BLACK-MARKET MONEYLENDER, WHO USES ORPHANS TO STEAL FOR HIM.
I SUSPECT THE CANARY SHOP IS SIMPLY A COVER FOR HIS *TRUE* BUSINESS.
MY! SO ONE *CAN* MAKE A TIDY LIVING BREEDING CANARIES, AFTER ALL!

*The Crystal Palace of London was a glass and cast-iron building, constructed in 1851 to house the Great Exhibition It was destroyed by fire in 1936.

THE EAST END IS A VERY POOR DISTRICT.
EVEN THE MOST VICIOUS OF LOAN SHARKS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SQUEEZE MUCH MONEY FROM THAT PLACE.
STILL, IT DOESN'T ALL ADD UP. EVEN THAT DOES NOT SEEM LIKE A LARGE ENOUGH SOURCE OF FUNDS.
TRUE. THE PEOPLE BORROW BECAUSE THEY ARE DESPERATELY POOR.
BEING THAT POOR, THEY HAVE LITTLE WAY TO REPAY THE LOAN.
CORRECT. AND THAT IS WHY THE LENDER INSISTS UPON COLLAT-ERAL.
BUT WHAT SORT OF COLLATERAL COULD SUCH DESTITUTE PEOPLE OFFER?
THERE ARE SOME THINGS OF VALUE THAT ANYONE CAN OFFER UP, RICH OR POOR.
OH?
AND WHAT WOULD THOSE BE...?

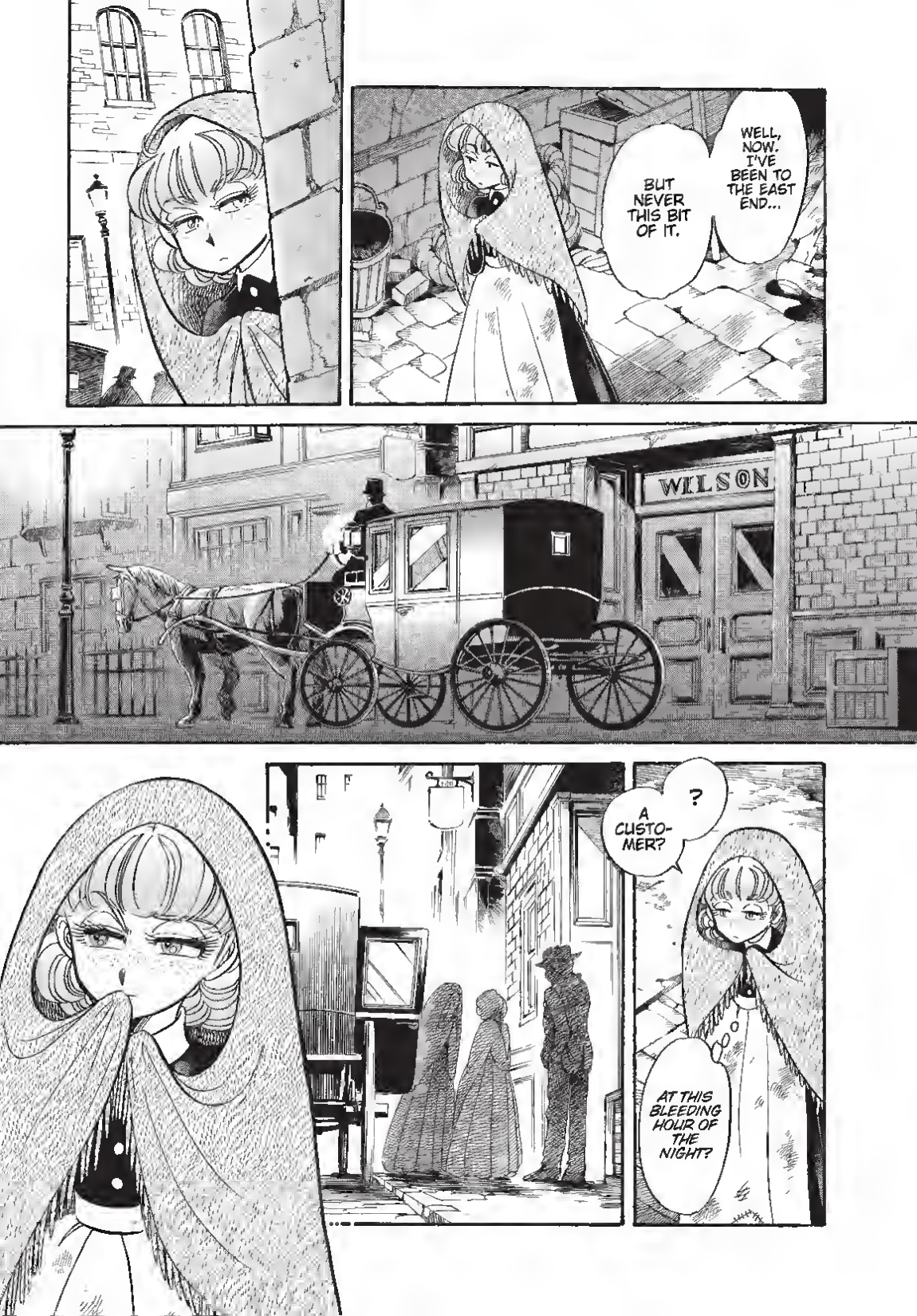

HUMAN COLLAT-ERAL.
PARTICU-LARLY YOUNG WOMEN.


MISS CHRIS-TIE!
BUT THAT... THAT WOULD MEAN--!


YES. THAT IS THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT, WHEN GIRLS ARE ACCEPTED AS COLLATERAL.
I DO NOT LIKE TO BELIEVE IT, BUT IT IS TRUE.
.....
SHOULD THE BORROWER DEFAULT, THE GIRLS ARE TAKEN AND SOLD TO A BROTHEL.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING THE POLICE CAN DO TO STOP THIS?
THE POLICE, UNFORTU-NATELY, CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT EVIDENCE.

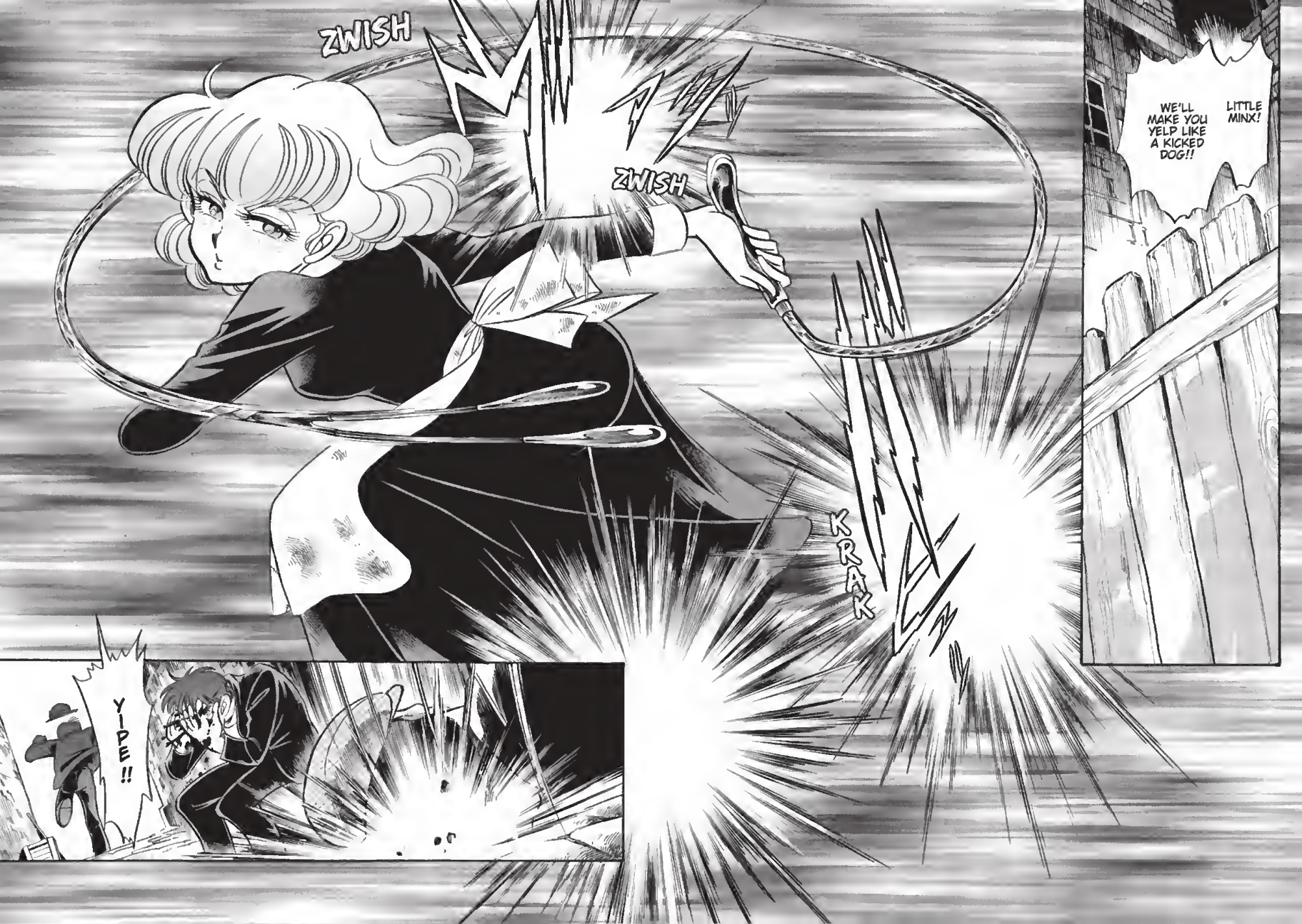
ONCE THEY ARE SOLD TO THE BROTHEL, THEIR "WAGES" ARE USED TO PAY BACK THE LOAN.
I DO NOT THINK THEY WOULD WISH TO.
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GIRLS THEMSELVES? COULD THEY NOT TESTIFY?
GOING TO THE POLICE AND OFFERING TO TESTIFY IS DANGEROUS. IT MIGHT LEAD TO FAR GREATER TROUBLE, WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF ESCAPE.
THAT GIVES THEM THE HOPE THAT ONE DAY, ONCE THEY HAVE PAID OFF THEIR DEBT, THEY CAN BE FREE.
FOR SUCH A POWERFUL, CIVILIZED COUNTRY TO HAVE THIS KIND OF DARKNESS LURKING WITHIN!
HOW HIDEOUS!
AS WE SPEAK, SHE IS COMBING THE EAST END FOR ANSWERS.
AND I HAVE ASKED NORA TO SEARCH INSIDE THAT DARKNESS.
YES.

WILSO
THIS'LL BE THAT FAMOUS "WILSON'S" SHOP.


WELL, NOW. I'VE BEEN TO THE EAST END...
BUT NEVER THIS BIT OF IT.
WILSON
A CUSTO-MER?
?
AT THIS BLEEDING HOUR OF THE NIGHT?

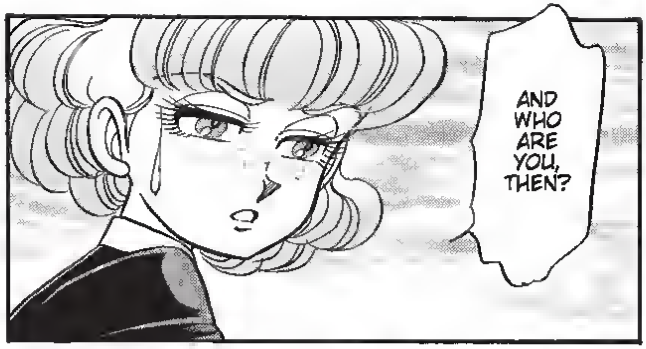
THREE GIRLS, ALL UN-ESCORTED? THAT'S RIGHT PECULIAR ...
'EY, YOU THERE!
MISSY! WOT'CHA LOOKIN' AT?
UH... NOTHIN', SIRS.
LIKE WE'D SWAL-LOW THAT.
COME WITH US!
TRY TO RUN, AND YOU'LL BE WHISTLIN' THROUGH YOUR THROAT.
YOU BEEN SNIFFING AROUND HERE FOR SOMETHIN'.
WE SEEN YOU GIVIN' STREET RATS SCONES TO MAKE 'EM TALK.

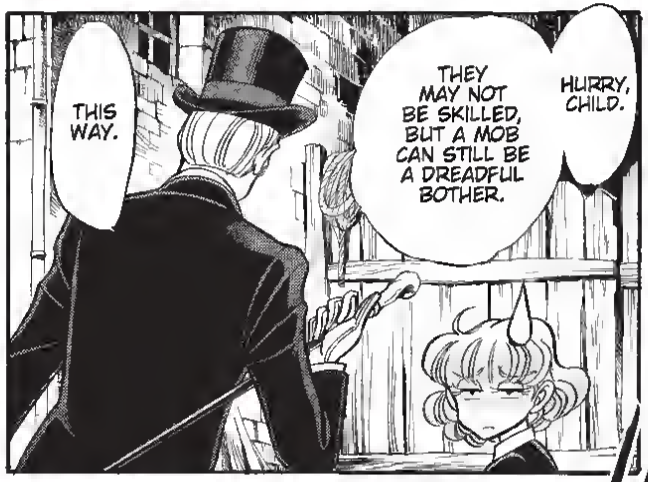
WELL, WE GOT ONE OF THE WHORES TO TALK TO US.
SHE SAYS YOU'RE ASKIN' AFTER MR. WILSON.
NOW, WHO SENT YOU?
ANSWER QUIET-LIKE, AND MEBBIE YOU'LL BE SPARED A SWIM IN THE THAMES.
LORD ABOVE.
SKCH
YOU BACK-ALLEY THUGS SURE GOT NO IMAGINATION. I COULDA WRITTEN THEM LINES FOR YA.
SHF
AH, WELL. IF YOU MUGS HAD ANY BRAINS, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
KREAK
ONE, EH? YOU SURE YOU LOT CAN COUNT THAT HIGH?
HAH! ONE GOOD CUFF, AND SHE'LL QUIET UP, REAL QUICK.
WELL, AIN'T YOU GOT A MOUTH ON YE!
LET'S SEE WHAT BECOMES OF YER CHEEK ONCE WE'VE HAD OUR WAY WITH YE.


ZWISH
ZWISH
KRAK
YIPE !!
LITTLE MINX!
WE'LL MAKE YOU YELP LIKE A KICKED DOG!!

SHING
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT!
HEH HEH! WELL, ONE OF US IS YELPING!
WHOOSH
OH-HO!
OOF !!
WHAK
TOSS

GURK!
THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! ALL THAT CREEPIN' ABOUT WAS DRIVING ME BATTY.
NOW I CAN GET SOME-WHERE!
WHAT'S WILSON'S GAME?
TELL ME EVERY-THING!
AND I'D DO IT QUICK, IF I WERE YOU.
OR I MIGHT LOSE MY PATIENCE AND TWIST YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF!
SELLIN ... WOMEN ...
SENDING 'EM OVER-SEAS...
THAT IS ENOUGH, MY DEAR. LEAVE THE POOR MAN BE.
!!


AND WHO ARE YOU, THEN?


THIS WAY.
THEY MAY NOT BE SKILLED, BUT A MOB CAN STILL BE A DREADFUL BOTHER.
HURRY, CHILD.

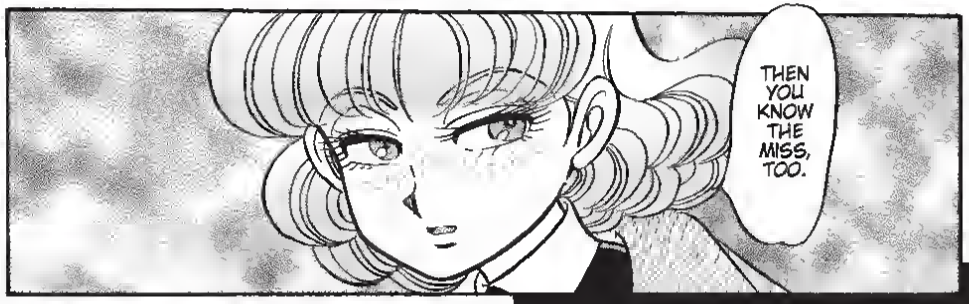
QUICK-LY NOW.

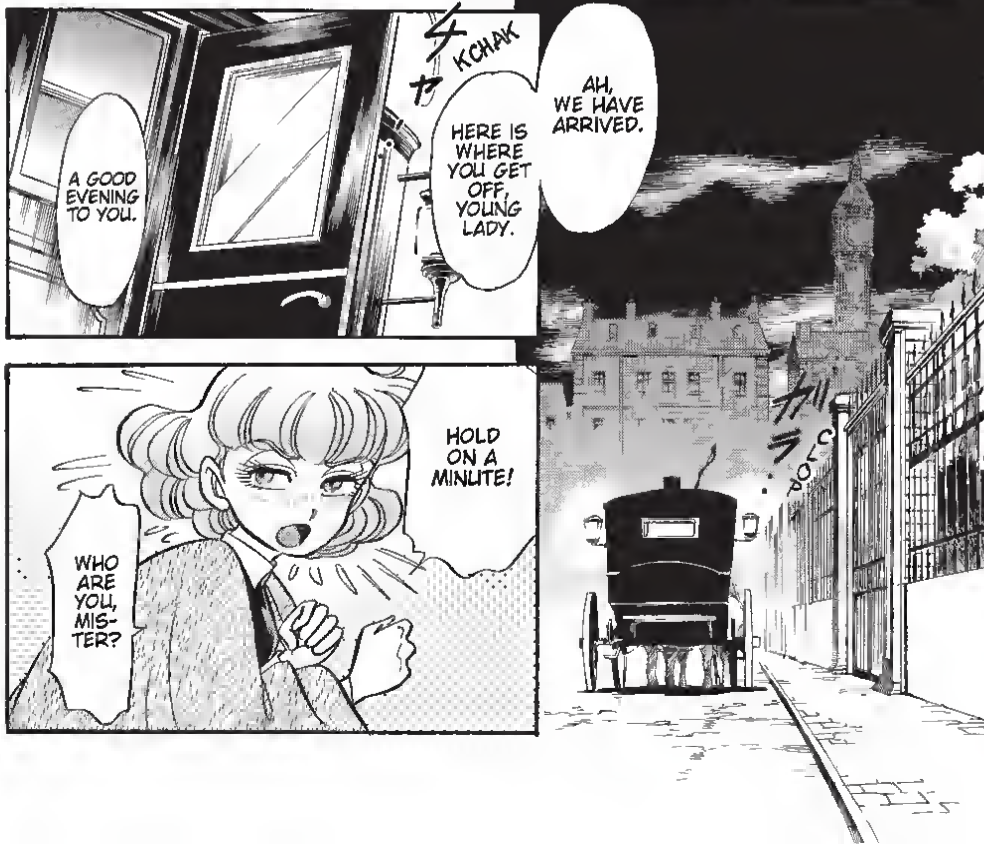
WHAK
SPLRK!

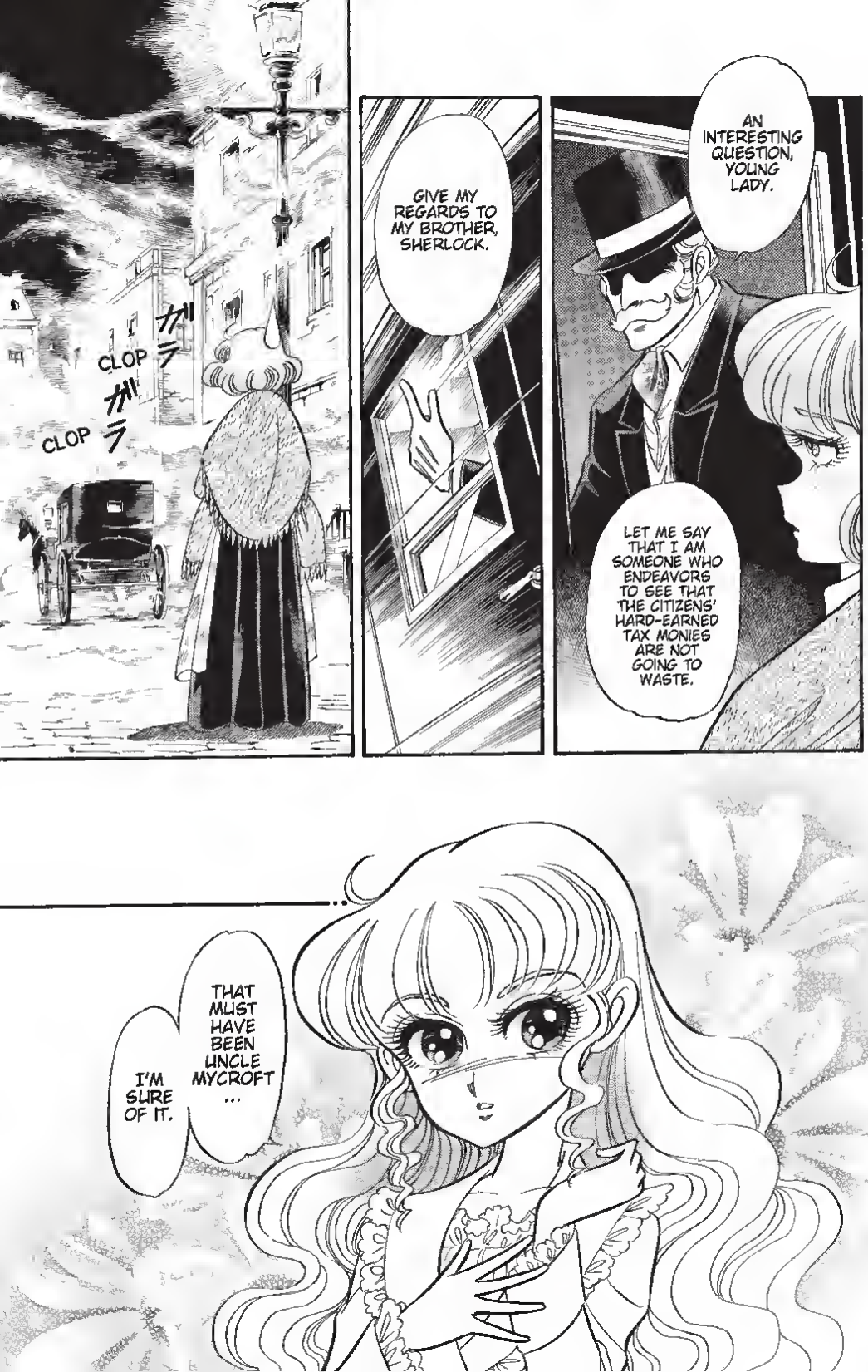
HIS ACCOMPLICES WILL SOON RETURN WITH REINFORCE-MENTS.

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
HOW'S THAT YOU'VE HEARD OF ME?
YOU CERTAINLY GO TO VERY DANGEROUS LENGTHS TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS, MISS MAID OF THE HOPES.
I HAVE HEARD MANY TALES OF YOUR EXPLOITS, BUT NOW THAT I'VE WITNESSED IT...
SO YOU'RE WITH SCOTLAND YARD?
DO NOT FRET ABOUT WILSON. WE ARE PURSUING OUR OWN INVESTIGATION INTO HIS AFFAIRS.

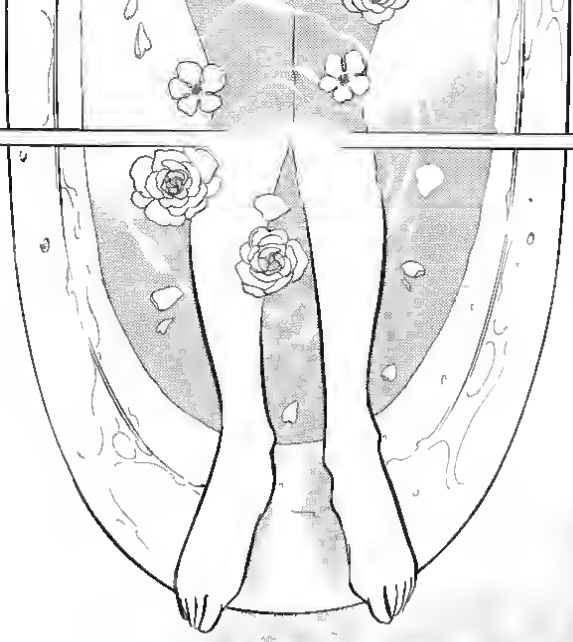
ACCORD-INGLY...
IT IS WELL BEYOND THE REACH OF YOUR YOUNG MISTRESS, LADY CHRISTIE.
INDEED, I AM NOT.
THIS CASE IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF SCOTLAND YARD'S CAPABILITIES.


THEN YOU KNOW THE MISS, TOO.

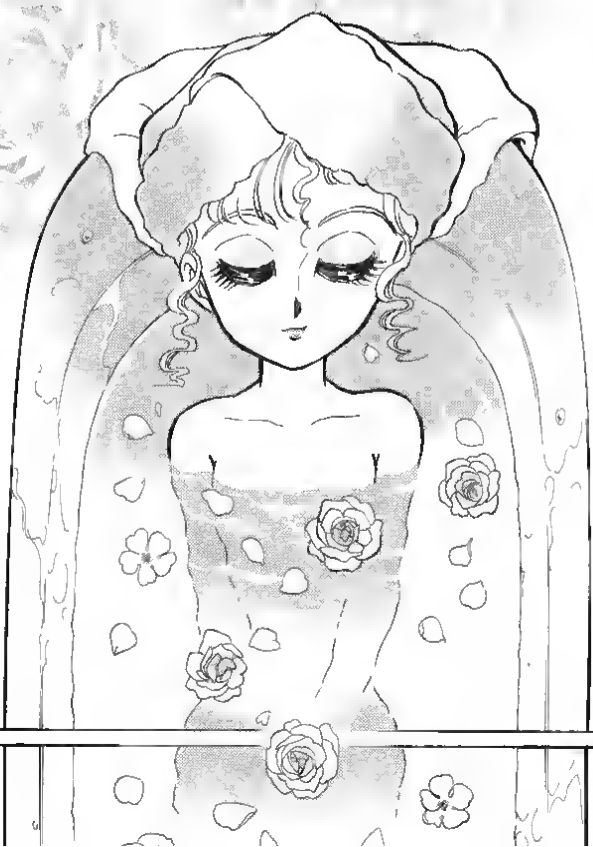

KCHAK
AH, WE HAVE ARRIVED.
HERE IS WHERE YOU GET OFF, YOUNG LADY.
A GOOD EVENING TO YOU.
HOLD ON A MINUTE!
WHO ARE YOU, MIS-TER?
POC


CLOP
ガラ
CLOP
ガラ
GIVE MY REGARDS TO MY BROTHER, SHERLOCK.
AN INTERESTING QUESTION, YOUNG LADY.
LET ME SAY THAT I AM SOMEONE WHO ENDEAVORS TO SEE THAT THE CITIZENS' HARD-EARNED TAX MONIES ARE NOT GOING TO WASTE.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN UNCLE MYCROFT ...
I'M SURE OF IT.

I HAVE THREE UNCLES, ACTUALLY.
UNCLE SHERLOCK IS THE YOUNGEST OF THE LOT.
I THOUGHT THERE WAS JUST MASTER HOLMES.
HOW'S THAT? YOU'VE ANOTHER UNCLE, MISS?
UNCLE MYCROFT IS SEVEN YEARS UNCLE SHERLOCK'S SENIOR...
AND THEN THERE IS UNCLE SHERRINFORD, THE ELDEST OF THE THREE.
MASTER MYCROFT WORKS FOR THE CROWN, DOES HE NOT?
YES, HE DOES.
AND IF HE HAS SAID HE IS PURSUING THIS CASE...
THEN THIS MUST HAVE FAR DEEPER ROOTS THAN I EVER DREAMED.
WE POKED INTO WHAT LOOKED LIKE AN INNOCENT HEDGE, BUT NOW A SNAKE HAS SLITHERED OUT.



The Adventure of the Famous Trainer (5)



Baker St.
COVENT MARKET GROCER CO.
WELL, HOLMES ...
WHAT IS ON THE SCHEDULE FOR TODAY?
YES. THIS CASE HAS QUITE A FEW PECULIARITIES TO IT.
HOWEVER, THE GRAINS OF VERIFIABLE TRUTH ARE SCATTERED AND RARE.
I WILL BE SPENDING THIS MORNING AT SCOTLAND YARD. THERE IS SOME RESEARCH I MUST DO.
SCOTLAND YARD, IS IT?
I DO NOT YET HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION I NEED TO DRAW A CLEAR PICTURE.
ALL I HAVE AT THE MOMENT IS A MESS OF THEORIES.
MY, MY! NOW *THAT* IS NOT SOMETHING I HEAR YOU SAY EVERY DAY.

NOK
NOK
THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE A BUSY DAY.
THERE ARE TWO OR THREE POINTS TO BE CLARIFIED.
I WILL NEED TO VISIT BRICKDAM AGAIN, LATER THIS AFTERNOON.
SIRS...
DETECTIVE DEXTER FROM SCOTLAND YARD HAS ARRIVED.
G'DAY.
AH, DETECTIVE!
PERFECT TIMING. I WAS JUST THINKING OF STOPPING BY SCOTLAND YARD...

MAGIC?!
ARE YOU SAYING MR. WILSON IS A WIZARD?
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THE STREET RATS SAY, LEAST-WAYS.
HOW RIDICU-LOUS!
I EXPECT ALL HE DID WAS SHOW THEM A FEW SLIGHT-OF-HAND PARLOR TRICKS.
NAY, MISS.
SEE, THEY SAY HE'LL CLAP HIS HANDS ONCE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR FACE.
AYE.
THEY TOLD ME OF ONE RAT WHO USED TO NICK FROM THE PURSES THEY'D CUT FOR WILSON.
CLAP HIS HANDS?

CLAP
IT SEEMS I NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU AREN'T EVER SO FOOLISH AGAIN.
LISTEN CARE-FULLY, BOY.
THE NEXT TIME YOU THINK OF PLAYING THE CROOKED CROSS ON ME...
YOUR HEART WILL STOP AND YOU WILL DIE.
Y-YES, SIR. MR. WILSON, SIR.
GOOD LAD.
NOW GET OUT THERE, AND MAKE SOME SCRATCH FOR ME!
WHOEVER PINCHES THE LEAST GOES WITHOUT SUPPER!!

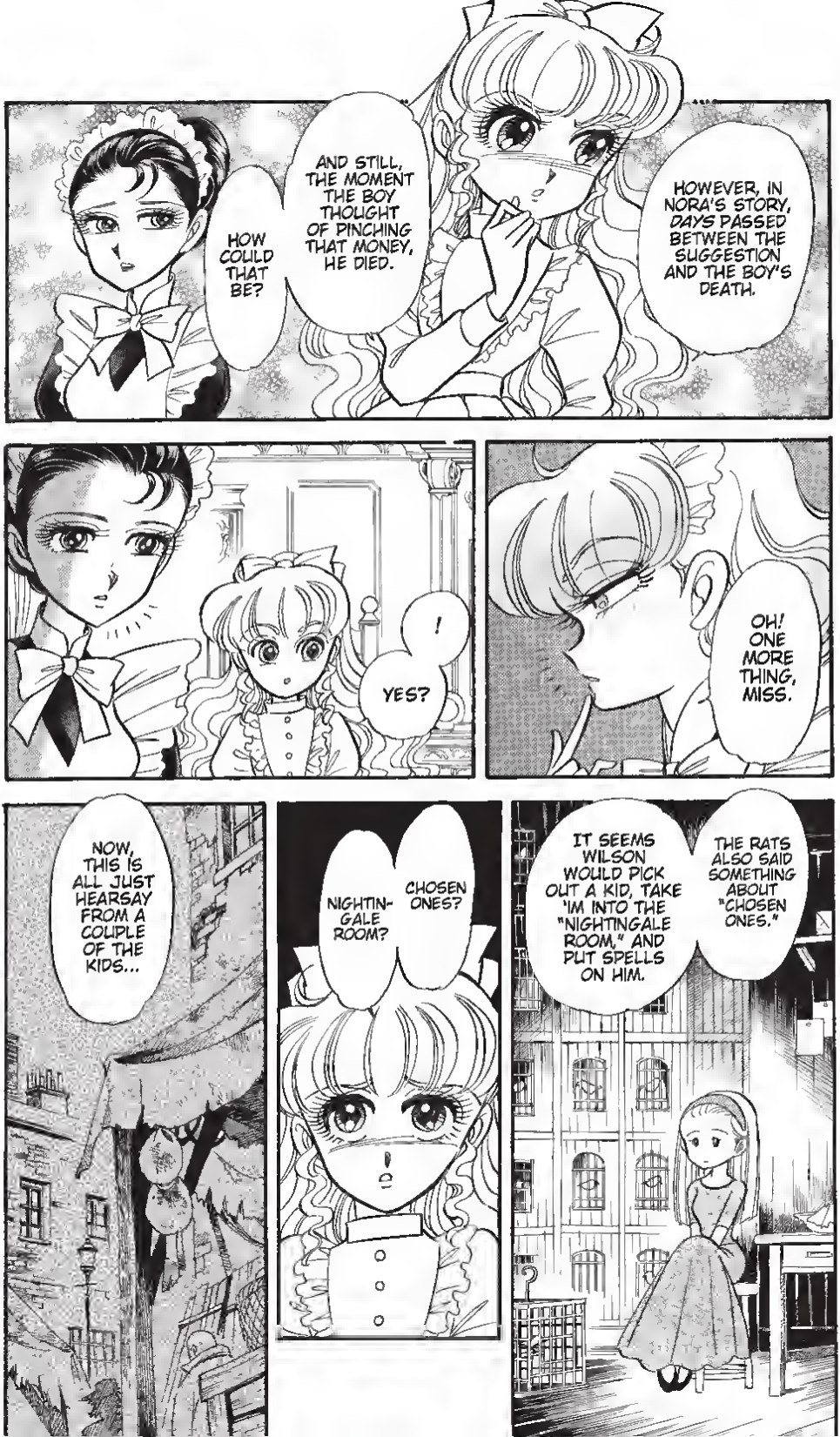
THE KIDS SAID THAT NOTHING HAPPENED FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
AYE, A BIT.
IT MAY BE. THERE IS MORE TO IT, YES?
SAY, MISS? IS THIS TALE USEFUL AT ALL, D'YOU THINK?
COR! THERE'S A WHOLE FIVE POUNDS IN HERE!!
ONE NIGHT, THEY CUT A NICE FAT PURSE OFF OF A LUSHING-TON*.
BUT THEN ...
AYE! MR. WILSON'LL KILL YA FOR SURE THIS TIME!
I'D PUT THAT BACK.
HEH HEH HEH! I'LL JUST PINCH A POUND FOR MESELF ...
C'MON, LET'S GO GET OURSELVES SOME GOOD GRUB!
HE AIN'T NEVER GONNA NOTICE.

*Lushington = Victorian slang for a drunkard

WITH A WHOLE POUND, WE COULD EAT OURSELVES SICK AND STILL HAVE--
!!
BA-THUMP
'OI! WHAT'S WRONG?
?
URK ...!
THE KIDS'RE CONVINCED WILSON'S A BLACK WIZARD...
AND THAT HE HEXES PEO-PLE.
HE'S D-DEAD ...!
.....
BLACK MAGIC ...?

THAT WAS NO MAGIC SPELL OR SILLY HEX.
IT WAS HYPNO-TISM.
HYPNO-TISM HAS BEEN IN USE FOR MANY YEARS.
HOW-EVER, IT HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN STUDIED. IT'S PART OF A NEW MEDICAL FIELD...
"PSYCHO-LOGY."
HOW'S THAT NOW?
NEVER HEARD OF IT, MISS.
SO THAT KID WAS TAKEN SICK?
IT'S... MEDI-CINE?
NO, HE WAS NOT ILL.
HE WAS SIMPLY GIVEN A SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTION SO STRONG THAT HE FOLLOWED IT WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING.

ARE THESE PEOPLE *UNCONSCIOUS*? IF THEY CAN'T THINK...
HRM... TO PUT IT VERY SIMPLY, HYPNOTISTS CAN PUT PEOPLE INTO A STATE WHERE THEY AREN'T THINKING FOR THEMSELVES...
AND THEN MANIPULATE THEM INTO DOING THINGS.
EH?
SUBLEE- WHA?
I DON'T FOLLOW.
BUT THEY ARE IN A STATE WHERE THEY ARE VERY RECEPTIVE TO THE ORDERS OF THE HYPNOTIST.
NO.
THEY ARE NOT *ENTIRELY* UNCONSCIOUS.
AND I HAVE HEARD THAT SUBLIMINAL SUGGESTIONS ONLY LAST A VERY SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
PERHAPS. BUT TYPICALLY, THE HYPNOTIZER MUST STAY CLOSE TO HIS SUBJECT.
.....
THAT IS A... FRIGHTENING THOUGHT.


HOWEVER, IN NORA'S STORY, DAYS PASSED BETWEEN THE SUGGESTION AND THE BOY'S DEATH.
AND STILL, THE MOMENT THE BOY THOUGHT OF PINCHING THAT MONEY, HE DIED.
HOW COULD THAT BE?
OH! ONE MORE THING, MISS.
!
YES?
NOW, THIS IS ALL JUST HEARSAY FROM A COUPLE OF THE KIDS...
CHOSEN ONES?
NIGHTIN-GALE ROOM?
!
THE RATS ALSO SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "CHOSEN ONES."
IT SEEMS WILSON WOULD PICK OUT A KID, TAKE 'IM INTO THE "NIGHTINGALE ROOM," AND PUT SPELLS ON HIM.

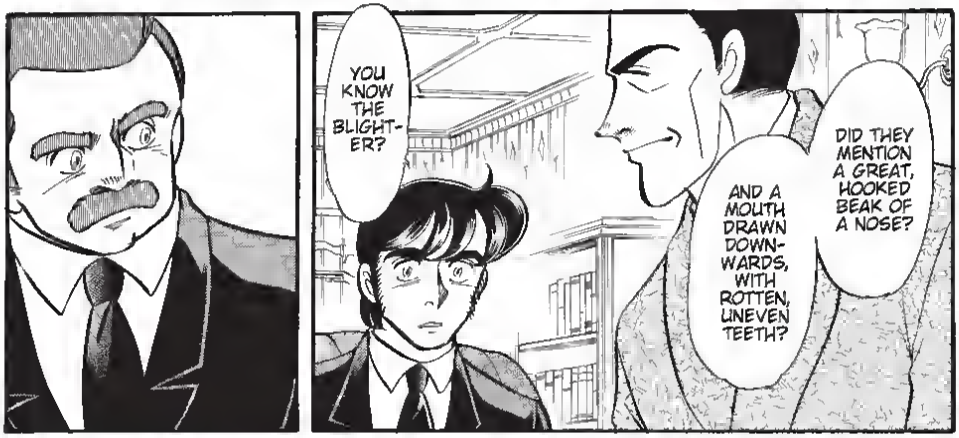
THEY AIN'T NEVER SEEN HIM SINCE.
THEN THEY SET HIM IN A CARRIAGE AND DROVE OFF SOME-WHERE.
SOME TIME LATER, HE CAME BACK, ALL DECKED OUT IN NEW DUDS.
BUT THEY SAID THERE WAS THIS NEW ORPHAN.
A BOY. ARAB. SUPPOSEDLY HAD A NICE FACE. GOOD FEATURES.
HE GOT TAKEN TO THE NIGHTINGALE ROOM.
WHAT'S THIS "NIGHTIN-GALE ROOM"?
THEY SAY IT'S A TINY, DINGY LITTLE ROOM.
WILSON TRAINS THE CANARIES IN THERE.
NORA!!
BUT I RECKON THAT BOY GOT PACKED OFF TO A BAWDY-HOUSE THAT SELLS MEN!
NOW, THIS IS MY OWN PERSONAL THOUGHT ...
I THINK I NEED TO VISIT UNCLE.
THIS CASE SEEMS FAR BEYOND WHAT I CAN HANDLE.

HOW SINGU-LAR.
SIR BROWN IS KILLED IN AN ACCIDENT...
AND NOT A WEEK LATER, HIS DAUGHTER TURNS UP DROWNED.
ISN'T IT?
AND SO ALL OF BROWN'S WEALTH GOES NOT TO HIS FAMILY, BUT TO COLLECTORS TO PAY OFF HIS DEBT?
WHAT A TERRIBLE STRING OF MISFOR-TUNES.
SIR BROWN WAS IN THE IMPORT BUSINESS.
FROM WHAT I COULD DISCOVER, HIS COMPANY DID FAIRLY WELL.
AND HIS POOR DAUGHTER... THAT WAS THE FIRST THEY'D SEEN OF EACH OTHER IN FIFTEEN YEARS, WAS IT NOT?

A REUNION BETWEEN LONG-PARTED FATHER AND CHILD...
SHORTLY AFTER WHICH, THE FATHER DIES IN AN ACCIDENT.
HE LEAVES BEHIND HIM A LEGACY OF DEBT.
THE DAUGHTER, DESPAIRING OVER THE FINANCES HER FATHER RUINED, THROWS HERSELF INTO THE RIVER.
INTER-ESTING. HOW MUCH DID SIR BROWN OWE?
A LITTLE UNDER 58,000 POUNDS.
AND WHAT WAS HIS INCOME?
JUST OVER 58,000 POUNDS.
THE TWO NUMBERS MATCH REMARK-ABLY WELL.
DEXTER, MY GOOD MAN...
I MUST SAY, YOU SHOW PROMISE.
THAT IS A RARITY IN SCOTLAND YARD.

PAWNSHOP
HE IS A SMALL PAWN-BROKER ON KING'S ROAD.
WHEN I VISITED THE PLACE, THEY SAID THEY HAD NO DETAILS, AND THE OWNER WAS OVERSEAS ON BUSINESS.
YES.
YOU RESEARCHED THE CREDITOR TO WHOM SIR BROWN OWED THIS DEBT, OF COURSE. CORRECT?
A PAWN-BROKER ...?
COULD HE DESCRIBE THE OWNER?
WHEN I ASKED THE CLERK ON DUTY, HE COULDN'T SHED ANY LIGHT.
BUT NO ONE BY THAT NAME ACTUALLY EXISTS.
THE SHOP'S REGIS-TERED OWNER IS ONE HARVEY WILCOCK.
COULD THE OTHERS SAY?
THE OWNER OF THAT SHOP, WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS HE?

YES. THE FELLOW IS SMALL, JUST OVER FIVE FEET.
SLIGHTLY HUNCH-BACKED. AGE IS MID-FIFTIES.
DARK BLOND HAIR, PEPPERED WITH WHITE FROM AGE.
SKIN WEATH-ERED AND DARK, AS IF FROM TOO MUCH TIME IN THE SUN.
GREY EYES.

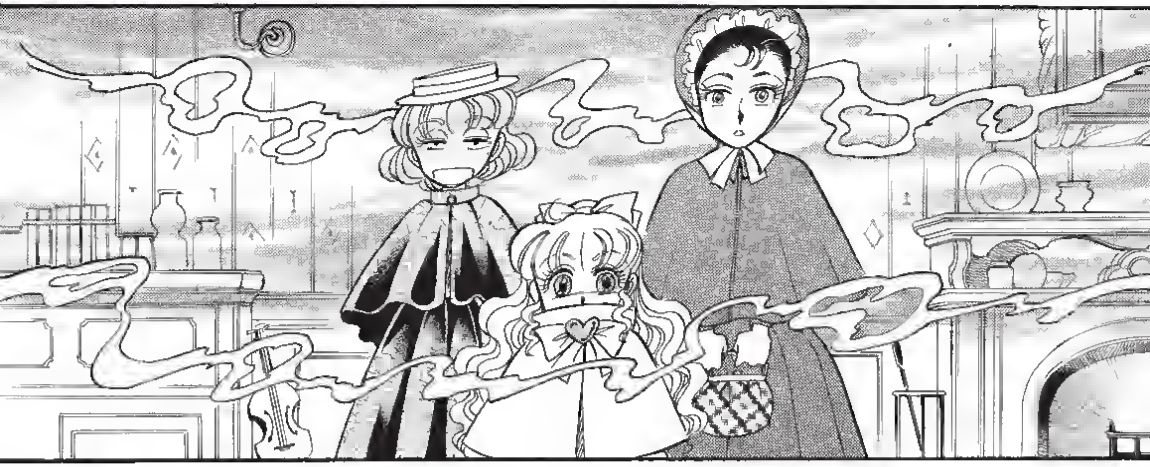

DID THEY MENTION A GREAT, HOOKED BEAK OF A NOSE?
AND A MOUTH DRAWN DOWN-WARDS, WITH ROTTEN, UNEVEN TEETH?
YOU KNOW THE BLIGHT-ER?

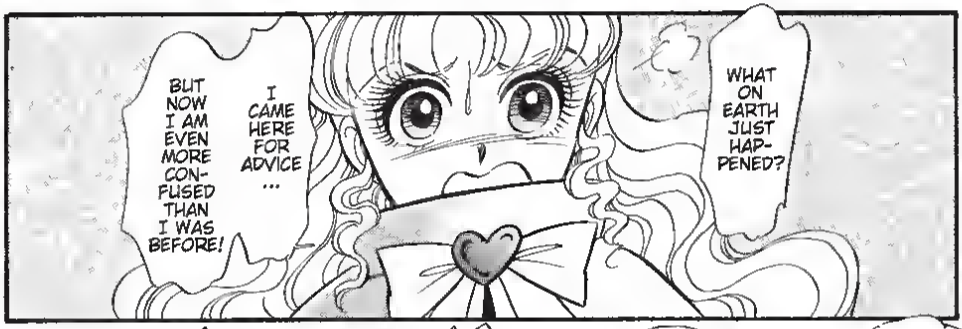
IT'S *HIM*, WATSON.
WILSON.
THOMAS WILSON. I *KNEW* HE WOULD BE BEHIND THIS!

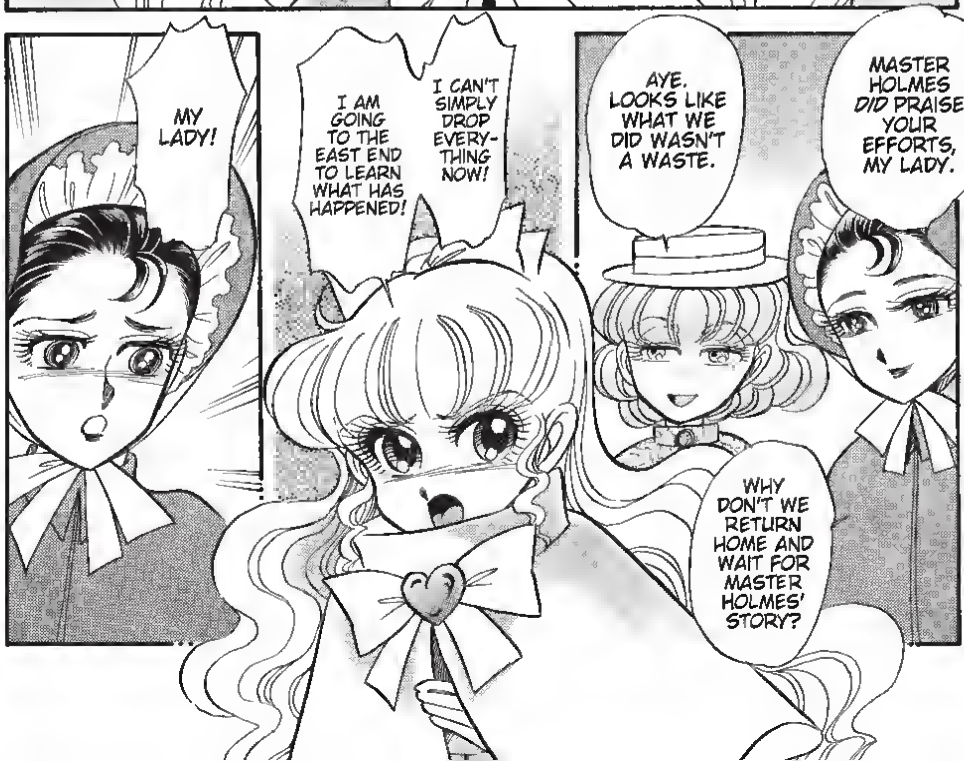
MASTER HOLMES?
LADY CHRISTIE HAS ARRIVED.

WELL, SIR...
WE ARE OCCUPIED RIGHT NOW. TELL HER TO HAVE TEA WITH MRS. HUDSON FOR A BIT.
LADY CHRIS-TIE?
UNCLE, I MUST BE HONEST. I AM IN FAR OVER MY HEAD WITH THIS CASE.
I NEED YOUR ADVICE.
NO WONDER I HAVE SEEN NO TRACE OF YOU THESE LAST FEW DAYS!
SO THAT IS WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN UP TO!
WHAT ?!

AND IT IS MOST FORTUNATE THAT YOU WERE! ALL THE PIECES HAVE COME TOGETHER, WATSON.
DEXTER! GO TO THE EAST END IMMEDIATELY AND ARREST THOMAS WILSON!
THE CHARGES ARE FRAUD, FALSIFICATION OF PUBLIC RECORDS, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING!
ALSO, SEND A TELEGRAM TO THE BRICKDAM POLICE, AND HAVE THEM GO TO THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS.
THEY WILL REQUIRE PROTEC-TION.
THE BOY KNOWN AS CONRAD SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.
COME, WAT-SON!
WE LEAVE FOR BRICKDAM AT ONCE!!
EXCEL-LENT WORK, CHRISTIE!
SIT TIGHT FOR A BIT. I SHALL RETURN WITH AN INTEREST-ING TALE FOR YOU!




WHAT ON EARTH JUST HAP-PENED?
I CAME HERE FOR ADVICE ...
BUT NOW I AM EVEN MORE CON-FUSED THAN I WAS BEFORE!


MASTER HOLMES *DID* PRAISE YOUR EFFORTS, MY LADY.
AYE. LOOKS LIKE WHAT WE DID WASN'T A WASTE.
I CAN'T SIMPLY DROP EVERY-THING NOW!
I AM GOING TO THE EAST END TO LEARN WHAT HAS HAPPENED!
MY LADY!
WHY DON'T WE RETURN HOME AND WAIT FOR MASTER HOLMES' STORY?

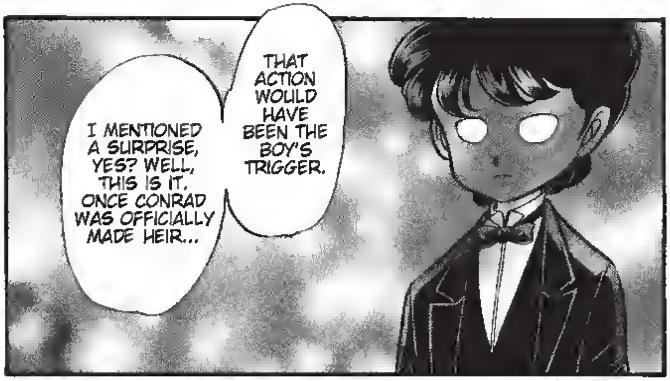
CLOP
CLOP
!
WELL, THIS IS IMPRESSIVE.
ONCE SCOTLAND YARD FINALLY DECIDES TO MOVE, IT MOVES QUICKLY.

NOT YET, I'M AFRAID. THE INSIDE OF HIS HOME IS A VERITABLE MAZE.
HAVE YOU CAPTURED MR. WILSON?
WHAT, COME TO ENJOY THE SHOW?
AS WELL AS SEVERAL LEDGERS, WHICH WILL BE USEFUL EVIDENCE.
BUT WE HAVE TAKEN CUSTODY OF THE GIRLS WHO WERE TO BE SOLD OVERSEAS ...
THERE HE IS!
THAT'S MR. WILSON-- HE'S DISGUISED HIMSELF AS A WOMAN!

KCHAK
HURRY! WE MUST STOP HIM!!
HE'S GETTING INTO THAT CARRIAGE!!
DASH
BLAM
BLAM
HALT! POLICE !!
SOMEONE STOP THAT CARRIAGE!
KSHAK
ANNMARIE!
GAH!!
KLUNK
SPAK
SPAK
SPAK

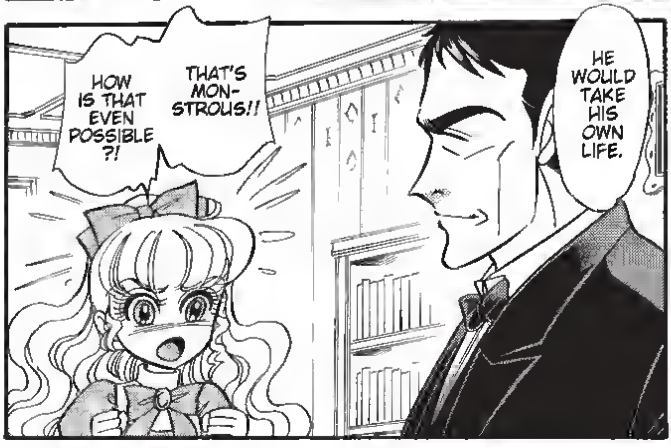
YAMMER
YAMMER
GET WILSON!
DRAG HIM OUT IF YOU MUST!!
YAMMER
COR! THAT WAS SMARTLY DONE.
GOOD ONE, ANNMARIE.
NOT ENTIRELY. THE SUREST WAY TO STOP A CARRIAGE IS TO SHOOT THE HORSE...
BUT I COULD NOT DO THAT TO THE POOR CREATURE.
IT SEEMS WILSON WOULD MAKE SEVERAL TRIPS TO TURKEY A YEAR.
THESE TRIPS WERE TO ACQUIRE CANARIES FOR HIS OSTENSIBLE "BUSINESS."
IT WAS ON ONE OF THESE TRIPS THAT WILSON MET ERNEST CHALMERS.
THE TWO BECAME FRIENDLY, AND ERNEST TOLD WILSON ALL ABOUT HIS HOME AND FAMILY.

THUS, WILSON RETURNED TO ENGLAND ...
AND HE GAVE THE POCKET WATCH AND LOCKET TO WILSON, ASKING HIM TO RETURN THEM TO HIS FAMILY.
YES, HE DID.
DID MR. CHALMERS ACTUALLY DIE OF AN ILLNESS?
THE CHALMERS FAMILY IS QUITE WELL-TO-DO, AFTER ALL.
FULLY INTENDING FROM THE START TO TURN ERNEST'S DEATH TO HIS OWN PROFIT.
ALONG WITH A SURPRISE, WHICH I WILL MENTION MOMENTARILY.
AND USED HYPNOSIS TO ENGRAVE EVERYTHING HE HAD LEARNED ABOUT ERNEST INTO THE BOY'S MIND...
HE RENAMED THE BOY "CONRAD," THEN TOOK HIM INTO HIS NIGHTINGALE ROOM...
PRECISELY. WILSON FOUND A RECENTLY ORPHANED ARAB CHILD ON THE EAST END STREETS...
AND THEN MOLDED HIM INTO ERNEST'S "LOST SON."
WITH THAT ACCOMPLISHED, HE SENT THE BOY OFF TO BRICKDAM.


I MENTIONED A SURPRISE, YES? WELL, THIS IS IT. ONCE CONRAD WAS OFFICIALLY MADE HEIR...
THAT ACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN THE BOY'S TRIGGER.

THESE PAPERS WOULD, IN EFFECT, HAVE CONRAD CEDE THE ENTIRE FORTUNE TO WILSON.
HOWEVER, HE WOULD NOT KEEP IT FOR LONG. WILSON HAD PREPARED SEVERAL PAPERS AHEAD OF TIME.
ONCE THE BOY HAD SIGNED THE PAPERS ...

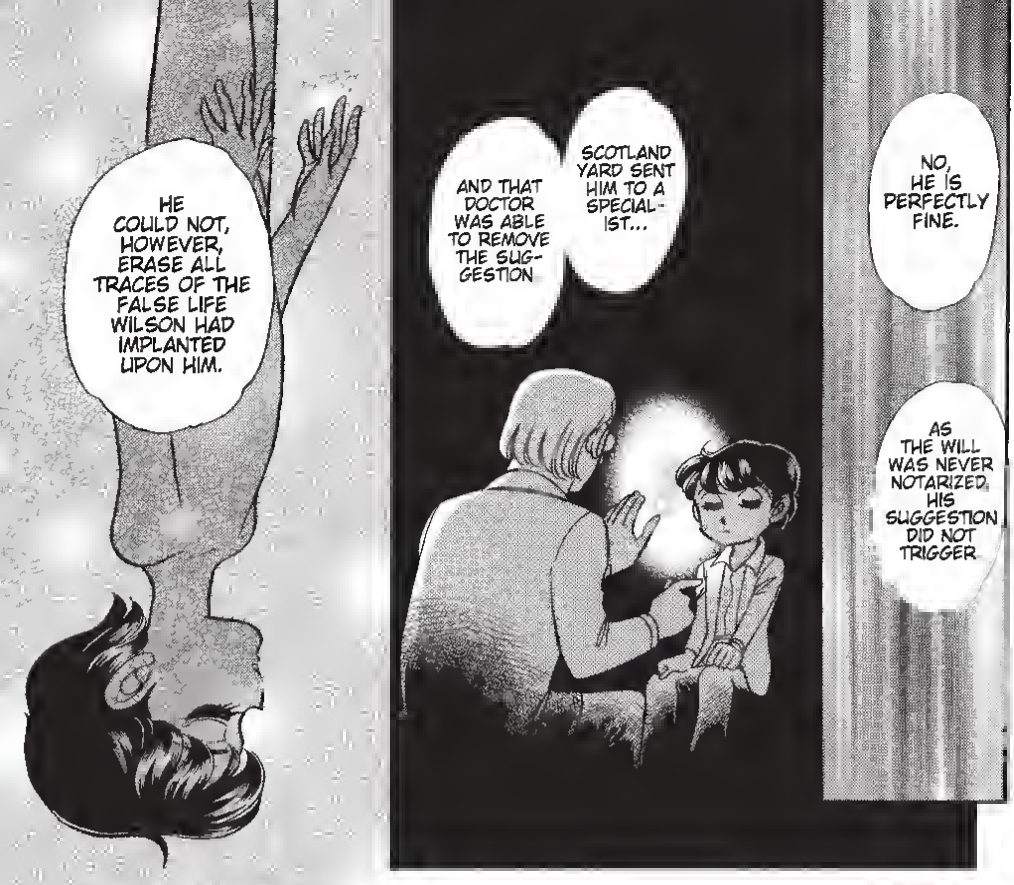
HE WOULD THEN PROMPTLY KILL MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS, AND INHERIT THEIR FORTUNE.


HOW IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE ?!
THAT'S MON-STROUS!!
HE WOULD TAKE HIS OWN LIFE.

THE BOY PRESENTED HIS STORY TO THE CHALMERS FAMILY, AND THEY BELIEVED HIM. MR. CHALMERS BEGAN TO RECONSIDER HIS WILL.
HE WAS ABOUT TO RE-WRITE IT, MAKING CONRAD HIS SOLE HEIR.
HAD HE GONE THROUGH WITH IT, AN OFFICIAL WOULD HAVE BEEN CALLED TO NOTARIZE THE DOCU-MENT.

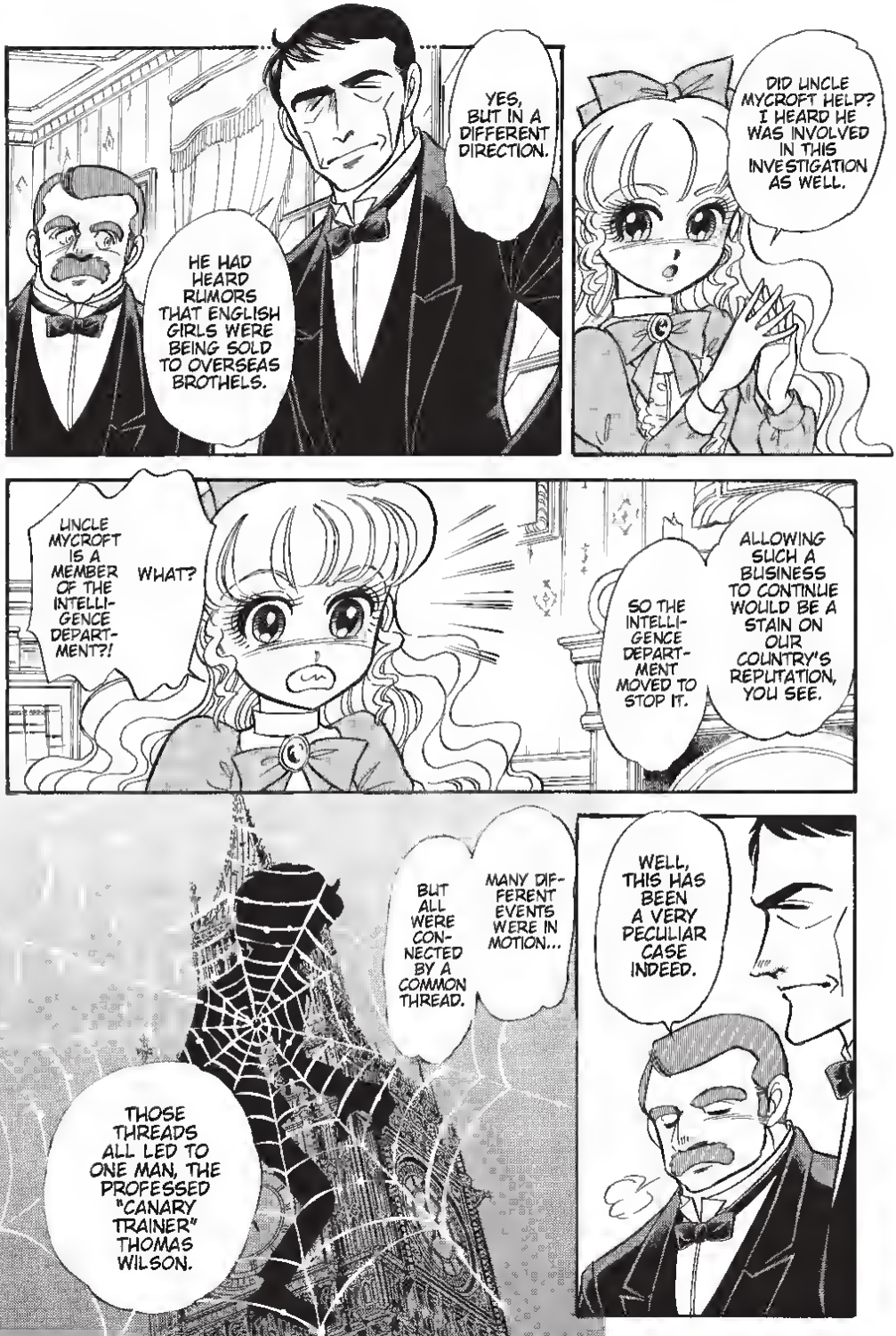
WHILE THE VICTIM IS HYPNOTIZED, A COMMAND IS PLANTED WITHIN THEIR MIND.
THE HYPNOSIS IS THEN BROKEN, BUT THE COMMAND REMAINS BURIED IN THE VICTIM'S SUBCONSCIOUS.
IN HYPNOSIS, THERE IS A POWERFUL TECHNIQUE CALLED "POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION."
EXACTLY. THAT STORY WAS WHAT ALLOWED ME TO MAKE THE FINAL CONNECTIONS.
NORA'S TALE ABOUT THE HEXED ORPHAN!
!
I KNEW IT WASN'T REALLY A CURSE.
UNTIL A PREVIOUSLY DETERMINED ACTION OR EVENT TRIGGERS IT
AND THERE IT STAYS ...
HE MANAGED THAT HEIST IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER AS THE CHALMERS AFFAIR.
THE DEATH OF SIR BROWN WAS ALSO WILSON'S WORK.
NESTLES MILK

NOW, SIR BROWN WAS KNOWN TO FREQUENT A PARTICULAR BROTHEL.
WILSON BRIBED SEVERAL OF THE WOMEN WORKING THERE.
OVER THE COURSE OF SEVERAL VISITS, THEY INTOXICATED BROWN AND PUMPED HIM FOR PERSONAL INFORMATION.
THAT IS HOW WILSON LEARNED OF BROWN'S ESTRANGED WIFE AND YOUNG DAUGHTER. EMPLOYING THE SAME METHOD AS WITH CONRAD...
HE TOOK AN ORPHAN GIRL AND TURNED HER INTO THE "LONG LOST DAUGHTER."
THE GIRL GATHERED INFORMATION ABOUT BROWN'S FORTUNE.
SHE TELLS WILSON, WHO THEN FORGES A LOAN DOCUMENT FOR THAT AMOUNT.
SIR BROWN THEN DIES IN AN "ACCIDENT." WHEN THE GIRL FINDS OUT, THE POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION WILSON IMPLANTED IN HER IS TRIGGERED.
SHE PLANTS THE LOAN DOCUMENT PROVIDED BY WILSON, AND THEN COMMITS SUICIDE.
WILSON PERPETRATED ALL OF THESE CRIMES THROUGH THE MISUSE OF POWERFUL HYPNOTIC TECHNIQUES.
ANY JUDGE WILL SEND HIM STRAIGHT TO THE NOOSE.
WHAT ABOUT POOR CONRAD?
IS HE STILL HYPNOTIZED?!


HE COULD NOT, HOWEVER, ERASE ALL TRACES OF THE FALSE LIFE WILSON HAD IMPLANTED UPON HIM.
AND THAT DOCTOR WAS ABLE TO REMOVE THE SUG-GESTION
SCOTLAND YARD SENT HIM TO A SPECIAL-IST...
NO, HE IS PERFECTLY FINE.
AS THE WILL WAS NEVER NOTARIZED, HIS SUGGESTION DID NOT TRIGGER.

MANIPULATING THOSE PARTS OF THE PSYCHE WHICH MAKE UP YOUR CHARACTER IS DANGEROUS, AND COULD DESTROY YOUR MIND.
IT WAS TOO CLOSE TO HIS OWN TRUE NATURE.
WHY NOT?

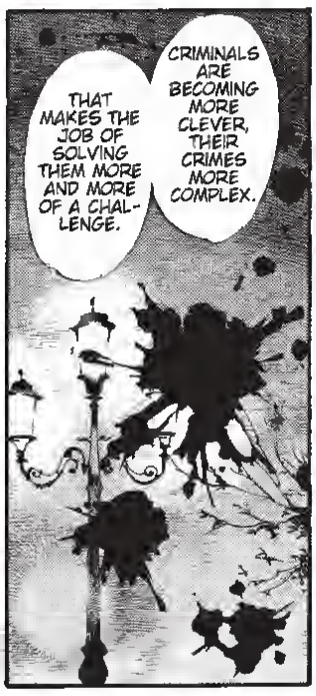
PERHAPS TIME WILL BRING HEALING.
FORTUNATELY, THE CHALMERS FAMILY HAS ADOPTED THE LAD. WITH THE POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION BROKEN, THEY CAN NOW SAFELY ALTER THEIR WILL TO INCLUDE BOTH HIM AND YOUNG MASTER GEORGE.
HE SHALL LIVE OUT THE REST OF HIS LIFE AS THE LONG-LOST SON ERNEST NEVER HAD.
THUS, THE BOY STILL BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE CONRAD CHAL-MERS.

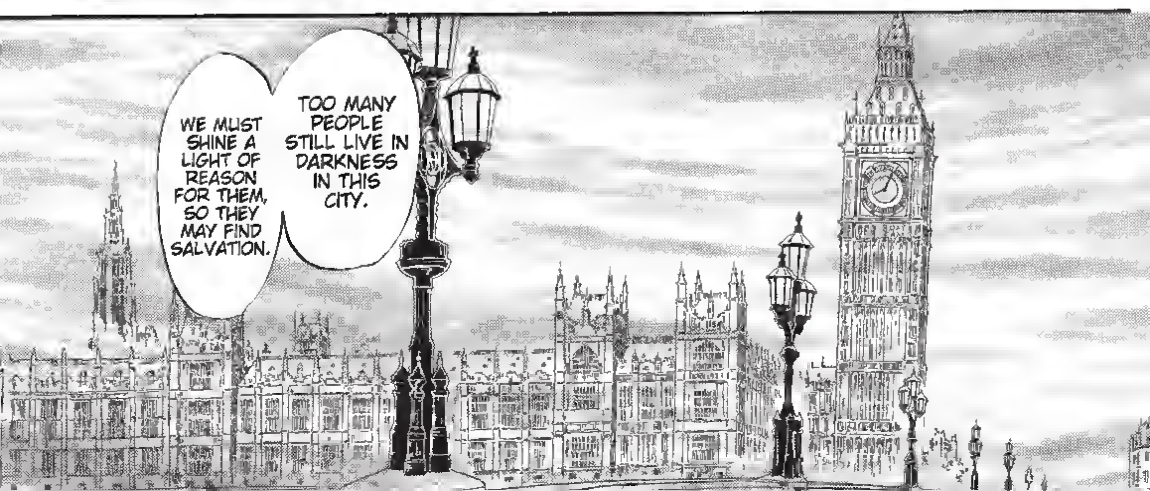

YES, BUT IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.
HE HAD HEARD RUMORS THAT ENGLISH GIRLS WERE BEING SOLD TO OVERSEAS BROTHELS.
DID UNCLE MYCROFT HELP? I HEARD HE WAS INVOLVED IN THIS INVESTIGATION AS WELL.
UNCLE MYCROFT IS A MEMBER OF THE INTELLI-GENCE DEPART-MENT?!
WHAT?
SO THE INTELLI-GENCE DEPART-MENT MOVED TO STOP IT.
ALLOWING SUCH A BUSINESS TO CONTINUE WOULD BE A STAIN ON OUR COUNTRY'S REPUTATION, YOU SEE.
WELL, THIS HAS BEEN A VERY PECULIAR CASE INDEED.
MANY DIF-FERENT EVENTS WERE IN MOTION...
BUT ALL WERE CON-NECTED BY A COMMON THREAD.
THOSE THREADS ALL LED TO ONE MAN, THE PROFESSED "CANARY TRAINER" THOMAS WILSON.

LONDON IS A GROWING CITY.
MORE PEOPLE WITH MANY DIVERSE BACK-GROUNDS COME HERE EACH DAY.

NO.

BUT WE MUST NOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE DAUNTED.


CRIMINALS ARE BECOMING MORE CLEVER, THEIR CRIMES MORE COMPLEX.
THAT MAKES THE JOB OF SOLVING THEM MORE AND MORE OF A CHAL-LENGE.


TOO MANY PEOPLE STILL LIVE IN DARKNESS IN THIS CITY.
WE MUST SHINE A LIGHT OF REASON FOR THEM, SO THEY MAY FIND SALVATION.

KWEK
DOOOO
BUT THE POOR THING STUFFED ITSELF TO DEATH.
I CARED FOR IT THE BEST I COULD...
Eek! What a strange bird!
AMANDA...? WHAT HAS BECOME OF YOUR DEAR LITTLE CANARY?
DOOO
DOOO
IT'S CALLED A "DODO"!
SO I DECIDED A LARGER, STURDIER BIRD WOULD BE MY NEXT PET!
DOOO
DOOO
LISTEN WHEN I TALK TO YOU!!
STOP!
AMANDA IS AS CERTAIN A NEMESIS AS I WILL EVER HAVE.
THAT CONFIRMS IT.